



Trump cancels pay raise federal workers were due in January

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump informed Congress on Thursday that he is canceling pay raises due in January for most civilian federal employees, citing budget constraints. But the workers still could see a slightly smaller boost in their pay under a proposal lawmakers are considering. Trump said he was axing a 2.1 percent across-the-board raise for most workers as well as locality pay increases averaging 25.7 percent and costing \$25 billion.

"We must maintain efforts to put our Nation on a fiscally sustainable course, and Federal agency budgets cannot sustain such increases," said Trump. The president last year signed a package of tax cuts that is forecast to expand the deficit by about \$1.5 trillion over 10 years.

Trump cited the "significant" cost of employing federal workers as justification for denying the pay increases, and called for federal worker pay to be based



President Donald Trump waves to members of the media as he walks towards Marine One at the White House in Washington, Thursday, Aug. 30, 2018, for a short trip to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and then on to Evansville, Ind., for a rally.

Associated Press

on performance and structured toward recruiting, retaining and rewarding "high-performing Federal

employees and those with critical skill sets." His announcement came as the country heads into

the Labor Day holiday weekend. The Democratic Party immediately criticized the an-

nouncement, citing the tax cuts Trump signed into law last December.

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Man charged with making death threats over Trump editorials

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**
and **BRIAN MELLEY**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Los Angeles man upset about The Boston Globe's coordinated editorial response to President Donald Trump's attacks on the news media was arrested Thursday on charges he threatened to kill the newspaper's journalists, who he called an "enemy of the people," federal prosecutors said.

Robert Chain's threatening phone calls to the Globe's newsroom started immediately after the Globe appealed to newspapers across the country to condemn what it called a "dirty war against the free press," prosecutors said. He is charged with making 14 calls in all, between Aug. 10 and Aug. 22.

On Aug. 16, the day scores of editorials were published, Chain, 68, of the Encino neighborhood of Los Angeles, told a Globe staffer that he was going to shoot employees in the head at 4 o'clock, according to court documents. That threat prompted a police response and increased security at the newspaper's offices.

Chain said he would con-



Surrounded by a white picket fence, this photo shows the front entrance of Robert Chain's house in the Encino section of Los Angeles on Thursday, Aug. 30, 2018.

Associated Press

tinue threatening the Globe until it stops its "treasonous and seditious" attacks on Trump, according to a court complaint. Several times, he called Globe employees the "enemy of the people," a characterization of journalists that Trump has used repeatedly, including in a tweet on Thursday before the charges were announced.

Newsrooms have received

threats for years and rarely do they result in charges. However, sensitivity has been heightened since a gunman with a long-running grudge against the Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland, killed five employees there in June.

Federal officials pledged to continue to go after anyone who puts others in fear of their lives.

"In a time of increasing polit-

ical polarization, and amid the increasing incidence of mass shootings, members of the public must police their own political rhetoric. Or we will," Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling said.

Jane Bowman, a spokeswoman for the Globe, said the newspaper is grateful for law enforcement's efforts to protect its staffers and track down the source of the threats.

"While it was unsettling for many of our staffers to be threatened in such a way, nobody - really, nobody - let it get in the way of the important work of this institution," she said in an email. Chain was expected to appear in Los Angeles' federal courtroom Thursday afternoon and be transferred to Boston at a later date. He's charged with making threatening communications in interstate commerce, which calls for up to five years in prison.

It was not immediately clear if Chain has an attorney. Phone messages left at his wife's law office weren't immediately returned and with a person listed as a relative didn't immediately return phone messages.

A neighbor who lived across the street from Chain and only knew him as "Rob" said he had a bombastic personality and could frequently be heard yelling at his television.

Tim McGowan said he knew nothing of Chain's political leanings and assumed he was an old hippie because he wore his hair in a "man bun" and frequently walked around in just shorts. □



This June 28, 2016 photo, shows the Oregon Health & Science University Campus in Portland, Ore.

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The only remaining doctor in Oregon's only heart transplant program has resigned, leaving the state with no medical facilities that can perform the life-

saving procedure. Oregon Health & Science University is now working to transfer the 20 patients on its waiting list to other transplant centers, including those in Seattle and the San Fran-

Last heart transplant doctor leaves Oregon hospital

cisco Bay Area, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Thursday. The Portland, Oregon, hospital notified patients this earlier week that it was suspending its heart transplant program for 14 days because one doctor had left and two others had given notice, leaving one doctor to provide follow-up care. The final doctor to leave did not give a reason for her departure, which was reported Thursday. OHSU said it won't

evaluate new patients for transplants, accept donor hearts or perform any transplant surgeries for two weeks and is scrambling to find heart specialists to add to its program. But other medical centers that have been forced to suspend heart transplants have taken months or years to resurrect a program, the newspaper reported. Renee Edwards, chief medical officer for OHSU Health-care, acknowledged that

the hospital could take longer to resume its program. Cardiac patients who don't need transplants can still be treated at OHSU, including for such procedures as pacemaker implantation, she has said.

Eighteen heart transplants were done at OHSU in 2016 and 30 more were completed there in 2017, according to federal data. There are 3,930 people awaiting new hearts on the national transplant list. □



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PAY RAISE

Continued from Front

The law provided steep tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans, and more modest reductions for middle- and low-income individuals and families.

"Trump has delivered yet another slap in the face to American workers," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez. Under the law, the 2.1 percent raise takes effect automatically unless the president and Congress act to change it. Congress is currently debating a proposal for a slightly lower, 1.9 percent across-the-board raise to be included in a government funding bill that would require Trump's signature to keep most government functions operating past September.

Unions representing the 2 million-member federal workforce urged Congress to pass the 1.9 percent pay raise. "President Trump's plan to freeze wages for these patriotic workers next year ignores the fact that they are worse off today financially than they were at the start of the decade," said J. David Cox Sr., president of the American Federation of Government Employees, which represents some 700,000 federal workers. "They have already endured years of little to no increases and their paychecks cannot stretch any further as education, health care costs, gas and other goods continue to get more expensive," added Tim Reardon, national president of the National Treasury Employees Union. Cox said federal worker pay and benefits have been cut by more than \$200 billion since 2011, and workers are currently earning 5 percent less than they did at the start of the decade. In July, the Trump administration sharply revised upward



President Donald Trump listens during a discussion for drug-free communities support programs, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press

its deficit estimates compared to the estimates in the budget proposal it sent Congress in February. The worsening deficit reflects the impact of the \$1.5 trillion, 10-year tax cut, as well as increased spending for the military and domestic programs that Congress approved earlier this year. The administration's July budget update projected a deficit of \$890 million for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30, up from the February estimate of \$873 billion. The \$890 billion deficit projection represents a 34 percent increase from the \$666 billion deficit the government recorded in 2017. For 2019, the administration is projecting the deficit will once again top \$1 trillion and stay at that level for the next three years. The only other period when the federal government ran deficits above \$1 trillion was the four years from 2009 through 2012, when the government used tax

cuts and increased spending to combat the 2008 fiscal crisis and the worst economic downturn since the 1930s. Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., who represents many federal workers, blamed what he said was Trump's mismanagement of federal government.

"His tax bill exploded the deficit, and now he is trying to balance the budget on the backs of federal workers," Connolly said. □



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Kochs unveil list of backed House candidates

By STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The political network created by the billionaire Koch brothers announced plans to support eight House Republicans on Thursday, pledging financial resources and activists to help re-elect several vulnerable congressmen deemed "principled" conservatives.

The first wave of endorsements includes a handful of sometime-critics of President Donald Trump, particularly on immigration and spending.

The announcement comes a month after Trump assailed the Koch brothers as "a total joke in real Republican circles." Days earlier, network patriarch Charles Koch had condemned the increased government spending under the Republican president's leadership and Trump's push for import tariffs.

Despite the clash with the White House, the Koch network remains one of the most powerful political organizations in the country. The sprawling organization is on pace to spend as much as \$400 million on politics and policy ahead of November's election.



In this Aug. 30, 2013 file photo, David Koch speaks in Orlando, Fla. The political network created by the billionaire Koch brothers is announcing plans to support eight House Republicans.

Associated Press

And its coalition of trained activists across 36 states has no rival.

The candidates backed by the network's political arm, Americans for Prosperity, include eight men from seven states: Reps. Rod Blum and David Young of Iowa, Dave Brat of Virginia, Ted Budd of North Carolina, Steve Chabot of Ohio, Will Hurd of Texas, Erik Paulsen of Minnesota and Peter Roskam of Illinois.

For each of the candidates, Americans for Prosperity "will fully activate its grass-roots infrastructure through phone banks and neighborhood canvassing, as well as deploy targeted digital, mail and radio advertising," according to a statement.

Absent from the list are some of the nation's most vulnerable House Republicans including Reps. Barbara Comstock of Virginia

and Mike Coffman of Colorado in addition to any Republicans from top House battleground states such as California, New Jersey or New York.

The Kochs, who devote substantial resources to pushing conservative policies at the state and national level, are active in New Jersey but do not have chapters in California or New York.

"While Americans for Prosperity is committed to opposing politicians who actively work to defeat good policies, we are proud to stand with lawmakers who champion legislation that helps improve people's lives," said AFP president Tim Phillips.

He added: "The candidates we are supporting this fall have each been strong, principled leaders."

All but one of the endorsed candidates, Hurd, supported efforts to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law, including the popular provision that required insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions.

All of them voted for the sweeping tax cuts and the GOP plan to ease banking regulations put in place af-

ter the 2007 financial collapse.

Most supported the White House-backed \$1.3 trillion spending bill Congress adopted earlier in the year over the Koch network's objections. The opponents included three people on the endorsement list: Freedom Caucus members Blum, Brat and Budd.

Some of the group also oppose Trump's immigration policies.

Hurd, in particular, has emerged as a vocal critic of the administration's move to separate immigrant families at the border and spend tens of billions of dollars on a huge wall. Paulsen supports a law that would protect many young immigrants in the country illegally from deportation, while Roskam opposed Trump's border separation policy as well.

The Koch network favors a more forgiving immigration policy in line with much of the business wing of the GOP.

"As we work to build progress in Washington, we will continue our pursuit of policy majorities that will move our country in the right direction by supporting leaders like these," Phillips said. □

EPA rethinking air pollution rule for power plants

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is considering rewriting another Obama-era rule controlling hazardous emissions from coal-fired power plants, this one on mercury and other pollutants.

Environmental Protection Agency spokeswoman Molly Block said Wednesday that the agency is still preparing its proposal for consideration by the White House's Office of Management and Budget and that there are few details to release.

The EPA is looking at

whether the 2012 rule on power plant emissions was necessary, among other issues, Block said.

The Obama administration rule set limits for emissions of mercury, arsenic and other toxic air pollutants from coal- and oil-fired power plants. The U.S. Energy Information Adminis-

tration said last year that almost all the country's coal-fired power plants were now in compliance with the 2012 rule.

Democratic Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware and Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee urged the EPA in a joint letter to keep the 2012 limits

in place, saying the rules has cut mercury emissions from power plants by 90 percent.

The EPA announced earlier this month that it was moving to relax federal oversight of emissions from coal-fired power plants under a separate Obama-era rule from 2015. □

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ARUBATODAY**SAVE TIME
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ONLINE****www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com****Judge: Government can end housing for Puerto Rican evacuees**By ALANNA DURKIN RICHE
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Puerto Rico hurricane evacuees living in hotels across the U.S. can be evicted in two weeks, a Massachusetts judge ruled Thursday, saying he didn't believe it was the right thing to do but that his hands were tied by the law. Worcester-based U.S. Judge Timothy Hillman denied an effort to force the government to continue the temporary housing voucher program until all of the evacuees either receive temporary housing or find permanent housing. But he ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency to keep the program in place through Sept. 13 to give the evacuees time to make other plans.

Hillman said he was forced to issue the ruling because the evacuees weren't likely to succeed on the merits of their case.

"While this is the result that I am compelled to find, it is not necessarily the right result," Hillman said.

He said he could not order the government to do "that

which in a humanitarian and caring world should be done."

He also urged the two sides to work together to find temporary housing or other aid for the evacuees before the program ends.

LatinoJustice PRLDEF, an advocacy group that brought the lawsuit on behalf of the evacuees, said its legal team was reviewing its options.

Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, a lawyer with the group, said the government can provide aid to the evacuees through other means, but so far has chosen not to.

"If those things don't happen now, at the judge's urging, what will likely happen is we're going to have hundreds of evacuees become homeless" and looking for beds at shelters, she said.

A FEMA spokesman said the agency is working to notify hotels that evacuees will be allowed to stay until checkout time on Sept. 14, but said there will be no further extension of the programs beyond that date.

The evacuees have been



In this Oct. 5, 2017 file photo, a Puerto Rican national flag is mounted on debris of a damaged home in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in the seaside slum La Perla, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Associated Press

living in hotels on the mainland through the Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program since they fled the island after Hurricane Maria last September. The aid was initially supposed to expire June 30.

As of this month, hundreds of families were still using the vouchers. Many of them are in Massachusetts,

Florida and New York.

The U.S. territory's governor on Tuesday raised the official death toll from Hurricane Maria from 64 to 2,975 — almost twice the government's previous estimate.

Attorneys for the evacuees claimed FEMA had provided housing assistance in a "discriminatory manner"

because they weren't doing enough for Puerto Rican evacuees compared to how it treated Texas residents after Hurricane Harvey last year.

The federal government said it didn't handle the housing vouchers any differently from those of residents displaced by Texas and Florida hurricanes. □

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Government accuses Harvard of 'outright racial balancing'

By MARIA DANILOVA, COL-LIN BINKLEY and ERIC TUCK-ER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In its latest push to end the use of race in college admissions, the Trump administration on Thursday accused Harvard University of "engaging in outright racial balancing" and sided with Asian-American students who allege the Ivy League school discriminated against them.

Harvard denied the bias claim and said it would defend the right to consider race as a factor in admissions.

The Justice Department weighed in on a lawsuit filed in 2014 by Students For Fair Admission, which argues that one of the world's most prestigious universities discriminates against academically strong Asian-American applicants in favor of others who may be less qualified.

The agency said in a "statement of interest" that Harvard has failed to demonstrate that it does not discriminate on the basis



In this Aug. 30, 2012, file photo, a tour group walks through the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

of race and that its use of personal qualities in determining worthy applicants "may be infected with racial bias."

The Supreme Court permits colleges and universities to consider race in admissions decisions, but says that must be done in a narrowly tailored way to promote

diversity and should be limited in time. Schools also bear the burden of showing why their consideration of race is appropriate.

In Harvard's case, Justice Department officials said, the university hasn't explained how it uses race in admissions and has not adopted meaningful criteria to limit the use of race.

"No American should be denied admission to school because of their race," Attorney General Jeff Sessions said.

Sessions said Harvard's use of a "personal rating," which includes highly subjective factors such as being a "good person" or "likability," may be biased against Asian-Americans. Sessions said the school admits that it scores Asian-American applicants lower on personal rating than other students. Sessions also argued that Harvard admissions officers monitor and manipulate the racial makeup of incoming classes.

Harvard said it was disappointed that the department was "recycling the same misleading and hollow arguments that prove nothing more than the emptiness of the case against Harvard."

"Harvard does not discriminate against applicants from any group, and will continue to vigorously defend the legal right of ev-

ery college and university to consider race as one factor among many in college admissions, which the Supreme Court has consistently upheld for more than 40 years," the university said in a statement. "Colleges and universities must have the freedom and flexibility to create the diverse communities that are vital to the learning experience of every student."

Edward Blum, president of the group that sued Harvard, hailed the administration's action. "We look forward to having the gravely troubling evidence that Harvard continues to keep redacted disclosed to the American public in the near future," he said.

The department's court filing opposes Harvard's request to dismiss the suit before trial.

"Harvard's failure to provide meaningful criteria to cabin its voluntary use of race, its use of a personal rating that significantly harms Asian-American applicants' chances of admission and may be infected with racial bias, and the substantial evidence that Harvard is engaging in outright racial balancing each warrant denial" of Harvard's request, the department said.

The department is separately investigating Harvard's admissions policies.

There was no immediate comment on the move from the Education Department.

The filing follows a July decision by the those departments to abandon Obama-era guidelines that instructed universities to consider race in their admissions process to make the student body more diverse. Democrats said the Trump administration was taking away protections for minorities.

The Center for Equal Opportunity, a conservative think tank, cited Harvard's own analysis of its admissions data and said it "demonstrates that being African American, Native American, or Hispanic was a 'plus' factor in the competition for admission, but being Asian American proved to be a 'minus.'"

But Kristen Clarke, president of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, criticized the Justice Department for "signaling abandonment of the agency's long-standing historical mission of working to address racial discrimination and promote diversity." She said the department's filing "ignores the well-documented racial bias embedded in grades and standardized test scores." Shaun Harper, head of the Race and Equity Center at the University of Southern California, said that grades and test scores alone should not be the only factors when deciding whether to admit a student.

"Is the DOJ saying that it is in favor of Harvard being 100 percent Asian-American because if we are looking just at GPAs and test scores, it could very well be that those with the absolute higher scores would be Asian-Americans," Harper said. "Is this what the DOJ is saying it wants?"

Several other groups also filed court documents siding with Harvard.

More than 500 scholars who study college access and Asian-American studies asserted that the suit has failed to present any evidence of racial discrimination. □



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Protester: Toppling UNC Confederate statue was 'righteous'

By JONATHAN DREW
HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. (AP)

— The protesters who brought down a Confederate statue at North Carolina's flagship university acted with "a righteous show of people power" after university leaders refused to remove it, one of those accused in the demonstration said Thursday.

Raul Jimenez, who was previously acquitted of helping topple another Confederate statue in nearby Durham, briefly appeared in court on misdemeanor charges of rioting and defacing a public monument. Three others have later court dates on the same charges of helping to tear down "Silent Sam" at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill on Aug. 20.

University and legislative leaders have demanded a hard look at how a "highly organized" group of protesters used banners to conceal their preparations to bring down the statue with a rope — and why police were non-confrontational. Thursday's hearing came a day after public records revealed that a town police chief assisting the campus force with crowd control told his officers to stay back not long before the statue fell.

Asked outside court if he knew about advance plans to topple "Silent Sam," Jimenez said: "I think what happened is the community came together and made a decision, whether it was that night ... whenever it was; that decision was to take down the statue." UNC Chancellor Carol Folt "has been asked by students and faculty to take this statue down, trying to go through legal channels ... but she has refused and so the community took action," he said in an interview.

Jimenez, 27, declined to say whether he's guilty of helping topple the monument that protesters called a racist symbol. But he said he will fight the charges, calling the takedown "a righteous show of people power." Several-dozen supporters packed the court-

room, some wearing buttons with the slogan "Do It Like Durham & Chapel Hill." Tensions remained high more than a week after the bronze statue was taken down. The crowd accompanying Jimenez got into back-and-forth yelling and chants Thursday with a smaller group who came to support a pro-Confederate demonstrator charged with assault. Barry Brown wore a sticker on his shirt that said "Save Our Monuments" while he appeared in court on a charge of hitting an anti-statue protester during follow-up demonstrations Saturday in Chapel Hill.

One truck drove by with small Confederate flags and another played "Dixie," but there was no physical confrontation.

Brown did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

The university also released a statement Thursday showing a fourth person has been charged with helping topple the statue. Meanwhile, text messages and emails obtained through a public records request show Chapel Hill Police Chief Chris Blue told his officers, who were backing up campus police, to stay back before the statue was toppled during the Aug. 20 protest. WRAL-TV was first to report on the documents, which were later released to The Associated Press and others. Messages show that Blue instructed officers: "do not engage w Crowd at statue. Stay way out."

UNC police have primary responsibility for patrolling the campus, but the two departments assist each other. It's not clear why the campus police took a less confrontational approach than at previous protests.

Blue's department has also been under scrutiny after a photo surfaced of an officer on duty that night with a forearm tattoo resembling an anti-government group's logo. Town manager Roger Stancil issued a statement this week that the officer was placed on paid leave for displaying "a tattoo that is associated with the '3 Percenters,'" and



In this Monday, Aug. 20, 2018, file photo, police stand guard after the Confederate statue known as Silent Sam was toppled by protesters on campus at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Associated Press

an internal investigation could result in disciplinary action.

Silent Sam had stood in a

main campus quad since 1913. It came down about a year after a Confederate statue in Durham was felled

by protesters using a ladder and a rope, while deputies took video but didn't intervene. □



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UN Syria envoy floats idea of evacuating Idlib civilians

By JAMEY KEATEN
NATALIYA VASILYEVA

GENEVA (AP) — Fearing a military offensive, the U.N. envoy for Syria proposed Thursday that civilians holed up in the rebel-held region of Idlib could evacuate to government areas — a move that would send many back into parts of Syria they once fled in its 7-1/2-year-old civil war.

U.N. envoy Staffan de Mistura expressed fears of a "perfect storm" that could have a devastating impact on nearly 3 million people — nearly half of whom arrived from elsewhere in Syria — in the region largely controlled by al-Qaida-linked fighters. It came as Russia, President Bashar Assad's strongest military backer, announced major military drills in the Mediterranean Sea amid growing tensions over the enclave.

"Short of going to Turkey, the civilians have no other option in order not to be where fighting may take place," de Mistura told reporters of the evacuation plan, which is in its early phases and will need to be discussed with regional players. Russia expressed openness to the idea.

The evacuation proposal reflected rising concerns that Idlib could become the site of the latest humanitarian disaster in a country that has faced many of them during a war that has killed over 400,000 people and driven more than 5.5 million to flee abroad.

De Mistura said a proposal would be a "temporary" measure so that "people can then return to their own places untouched once this is over."

Ahmad Ramadan, a spokesman for the Syrian opposition's delegation to U.N. talks with the government, called de Mistura's proposal "unrealistic."

"It's very regrettable," he said. "The special envoy's role is not to call for a humanitarian corridor, but to call on Russia to stop the aggression."

Idlib is the last remaining refuge for the Syrian opposition since President Bashar Assad's forces began re-



In this April 25, 2018, file photo, UN Special Envoy of Secretary-General on Syria Staffan de Mistura addresses media during conference 'Supporting future of Syria and the region' at the EU Council in Brussels.

capturing territory from rebels in 2015. The country has been consumed by war since demonstrations broke out against Assad in 2011. Separately on Thursday, at a news conference in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem said his government plans to "liberate" Idlib, but that its priority was "to negotiate peace with those who want to surrender."

Al-Moallem said the government tried to negotiate with a so-called reconciliation committee in Idlib, but al-Qaida-linked militants arrested most of the committee members.

The militants have arrested over 500 people accused of trying to negotiate with the regime in recent weeks, according to Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group.

De Mistura said 10,000 al-Qaida-linked fighters and their families are located in the densely populated region, which is now home to 2.9 million people, many of them already displaced. After hosting nine rounds of fruitless talks between the Syrian government and opposition, de Mistura has recently focused his efforts on talks with the so-called "guarantors" of the peace process: Russia, Turkey and Iran.

De Mistura said he had no information about any "imminent attack," but pointed to information about military build-ups and messages of warning between the sides in Syria. He also spoke of "warnings and counter-warnings" between the United States and Russia, though he did not elaborate.

"We need to reduce the risk of unexpected escalation, and definitely look with great concern about

any potential use of chemical weapons or any type of weaponized chlorine," he said.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday the best way to protect the civilians in Idlib is for Russia to compel the Assad regime to avoid a military offensive.

"The regime's past brutality in Aleppo, Ghouta, and southwest Syria, to include indiscriminate targeting of civilian areas, indicate that they cannot be trusted to protect civilians in any military offensive," the statement said. "Their past gestures at humanitarian pauses and corridors have not reduced the suffering caused by Russian and regime attacks. In fact, more than a million of the civilians currently living in Idlib previously fled regime control." The U.S., Britain and France have warned they will respond to any use of chemical weapons in Syria.

Turkish President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan said Thursday his country was engaged in talks with Iran and Russia to avoid a humanitarian calamity in Idlib. The leaders of Turkey, Iran, and Russia are slated to meet next week in Tabriz to discuss the mounting crisis.

The office of U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday warned of the growing risk of a humanitarian catastrophe, and called for restraint.

De Mistura floated two options: one to not accelerate military escalation to allow more time for talks, and another to "allow and facilitate a credible — credible — humanitarian corridor to allow the civilian population to temporarily evacuate to a safer area."

"But that area most likely is under government control," he said. "So that requires a constructive, effective government support and a U.N. presence." He said he could travel to the area himself to help monitor an evacuation.

"We definitely intend to discuss it very intensely with the government," de Mistura said.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov told Russian news agencies that Moscow is willing to discuss "the details, the general idea and what practical solutions there are."

It came shortly after Russia's Defense Ministry told Russian news agencies that Russia will deploy 25 ships, including a missile cruiser, and 30 jets for the maneuvers in the first week of September. The military says the drills will focus on anti-air and anti-submarine defense.

The drills were announced after NATO reported a Russian naval buildup in the Mediterranean. □



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German protesters voice anger at migrant crime, politicians

By FRANK JORDANS

CHEMNITZ, Germany (AP)

— Hundreds of people protested and expressed disdain for politicians in east Germany on Thursday as a regional governor visited a city where the fatal stabbing of a German citizen sparked violent clashes over immigration.

Saxony state Gov. Michael Kretschmer held a town hall meeting in Chemnitz under the watch of tight police security as about 500 people demonstrated outside.

Many of the protesters refused to talk to the media, but the ones who did said they felt abandoned by politicians and were angry at the crimes committed by migrants.

At the site where the 35-year-old man was wounded in an altercation with migrants over the weekend, a message placed among the flowers and candles read: "Take away their knives or we'll take away your elected offices."

Authorities denied online rumors that the victim was protecting a woman from harassment when he was stabbed, saying there was no evidence this had been the case.

The slaying has become a rallying point for far-right groups in Germany. At least 18 people were injured Monday when their supporters, mobilized from surrounding areas and further afield, clashed with counter-protesters in Chemnitz. The public display, which included neo-Nazis hurling abuse and bottles as police struggled to keep the groups apart, has raised fresh concerns about the threat posed by far-right extremists in Germany.

Green party lawmaker Claudia Roth told German



The governor the German state of Saxony, Michael Kretschmer, right, addresses the media in Chemnitz, Germany, Thursday, Aug. 30, 2018.

Associated Press

news agency dpa that "organized far-right extremists" appeared to be using public anger over the killing for their ends. Footage showing numerous protesters performing the stiff-armed Nazi salute was evidence of their extremist ideology, Roth said.

Public displays of the salute, the Nazi swastika and other efforts to glorify Adolf Hitler's National Socialist regime are forbidden in Germany and can result in fines or prison sentences. Saxony state has long been a hotbed of anti-migrant sentiment. It is home to the group Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the West, or PEGIDA, and a stronghold of the far-right Alternative for Germany party, which received almost a quarter of the vote in the state last year.

There have been regular attacks against migrants over the years in Saxony, especially since the influx of more than a million refugees to Germany in 2015

and 2016. While the share of foreigners in Saxony remains below the national average, concern among the population about migrants committing crimes is particularly high.

Chemnitz prosecutors said a 22-year-old Iraqi and a 23-year-old Syrian were arrested on suspicion of manslaughter in connection with Sunday's killing.

Kretschmer, an ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, faces a state election next year. Adding to the pressure on him, opposition parties have called for an investigation into alleged collusion between Saxony police and far-right extremists after the arrest warrants for the two suspects were leaked on social media. □

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Purged NATO officer speaks out after escaping jail in Turkey

By LORNE COOK

BRUSSELS (AP) — In his sixth week of detention, Cafer Topkaya stopped counting the days in his prison diary, realizing he wouldn't be going home anytime soon.

Like many caught up in the crackdown after the failed military coup in Turkey two years ago, the 42-year-old naval officer had believed he could simply prove his innocence in court. But after weeks of sleeping on the floor in his cell, without enough food and with no explanation of the charges he faced, Topkaya said he understood the cards were stacked against him.

"After 39 days I lost my hope," he told The Associated Press in Brussels, where he rejoined his family this year after he managed to escape Turkey while on a conditional release from prison.

It's rare for military officers accused of supporting the coup to speak in public. Topkaya said he, too, was afraid to speak out — he doesn't feel entirely safe even in Belgium — but was inspired by the courage of a young Swedish woman whose recent protest aboard a passenger plane stopped the deportation of an Afghan migrant.

"Then I thought of the people in prison in Turkey. They can't meet with the press. They can't even meet with their lawyers. So they have no means to freely tell their stories, the things they endure," he said. "So I felt a responsibility to talk on behalf of them and to tell their story and my story."

Topkaya was working as a Turkish officer at NATO in Brussels when news broke of the military uprising against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that killed 250 people in July 2016. Erdogan blamed the attempted coup on Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, a former ally living in exile in the United States, and swiftly cracked down on suspected supporters of Gulen's movement across Turkey.

More than 130,000 people have since been purged from the public service.



In this photo taken on Monday, Aug. 27, 2018, Cafer Topkaya, a former naval officer posted to NATO, gestures, during an interview in his apartment in Brussels.

Associated Press

Over 77,000 have been arrested for alleged links to Gulen's network or Kurdish separatists, among them lawmakers, judges, prosecutors, military personnel, police and journalists.

Arrests continue, and the courts are swamped.

Topkaya, who says he supports neither Gulen nor Erdogan but the secular principles of modern Turkey's founding father, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, said he only fully learned about the allegations against him 11 months into his ordeal.

The charge sheet said the father-of-three was accused of insulting Erdogan and government officials on Twitter. With a laugh, Topkaya noted that his supposed account was posting Tweets even when he was in jail without internet access.

The charge sheet also noted that he had used the By-

Lock messaging app that authorities say coup plotters communicated with, and that he was working for NATO. While Turkey is a longtime alliance member and hundreds of Turkish nationals are posted at NATO headquarters, being seen as pro-NATO or pro-Western is an indictment these days, Topkaya said.

If the charges seemed surreal to him, conditions in Sincan prison outside Ankara were all too real. Living with four men in a cell meant for three, Topkaya said he slept on the floor without heating in sub-zero temperatures that first winter.

"I had four pairs of socks and it was like my feet were still in ice buckets. Once I cried from being cold," he said.

When a U.N. monitoring team visited Sincan, inmates were given a sec-

ond mattress, which Topkaya said felt "like sleeping in a Hilton suite."

Asked about Topkaya's case, a senior Turkish official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government rules, said only: "We refuse to associate with Gulenists and do not find it necessary to respond to their claims."

In a statement in December 2016 after visiting several Turkish prisons, U.N. envoy Nils Melzer said conditions were broadly "acceptable" though "significantly overcrowded." He noted inmate claims about "the freezing temperature" in one location, and "numerous allegations of torture and other ill-treatment." Human rights group Amnesty International has reported extensively on cases of abuse and torture linked to the coup. Some of the worst punishment was

reserved for military personnel.

Topkaya said he wasn't subjected to torture but spoke to prisoners who said they were.

Turkey's government insists it has a policy of zero tolerance to torture and says perpetrators are brought to justice.

This February, 16 months after Topkaya was lured to Ankara by commanders for an "urgent meeting" and detained, a judge granted him conditional release due to prosecution delays in substantiating its case, but he would have to report each week to police.

His diplomatic passport had been confiscated, but he still had an old normal one that was valid for a few more months and decided to use it. He fled to Greece a few weeks later and by March was back in Belgium, where his wife and children have refugee status. "It was like coming to life again after death," he said. "For the first few days we couldn't talk much. We just looked at each other's face and laughed, and sometimes we cried."

In Turkey, though, Topkaya was called a traitor by his own brother, who applied to change his family name, according to Turkish media. The brother, who was also in the navy, was relieved of his duties because of his family ties to Topkaya and was waging a legal battle to be re-instated, media reports said.

"It's like a picture of what's happening in Turkey. Many families have been broken and split up like this," Topkaya said. "I still love him," he added. "I hope that like the rest of the nation he will one day wake from this dream and we will hug again." □





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China rejects US lawmakers' sanctions call over Muslim camps

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China said Thursday that U.S. lawmakers were wasting taxpayer money by urging President Donald Trump's administration to impose sanctions on Chinese officials allegedly tied to the mass internment of ethnic minority Muslims in camps in the far west.

The lawmakers sent a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin urging the government to apply sanctions to address the "ongoing human rights crisis" in the region of Xinjiang (SHIN'-jhang), in the latest sign that the detentions are raising concerns among Western leaders and governments.

Muslim ethnic minorities in Xinjiang are being detained and tortured and face "egregious restrictions on religious practice and culture" and other abuses, said the letter, which was signed by Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and New Jersey Rep. Chris Smith and 15 others. It was provided to the media on Wednesday. The letter singles out Xinjiang's top official, Chen Quanguo, accused by many of turning the region into a police surveillance state and implementing a system of internment camps, also known as "re-education centers," where members of the Uighur ('WEE-gur) and other Muslim minorities are locked up for months without trial.

"The detention of as many as a million or more Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities in



In this July 10, 2009, file photo, Chinese paramilitary police practice during a break from patrol in Urumqi, western China's Xinjiang province.

Associated Press

'political reeducation' center or camps requires a tough, targeted, and global response," the letter said. Former detainees who spoke to The Associated Press described the internment camps as facilities policed by armed guards where Muslims were forced to disavow their religious beliefs, criticize themselves and their loved ones and give thanks to the ruling Communist Party. Beatings and deaths have been reported despite authorities' tight control on information from the region.

The detention program has swept up people, including relatives of American citizens, on ostensible offenses ranging from accessing foreign websites to contacting overseas relatives. Other aspects of the

security crackdown the AP has detailed include all-encompassing digital surveillance, mass deployment of police and severe regulations against religious customs and dress.

On Thursday in Beijing, the Foreign Ministry said Chinese citizens enjoy freedom of religion according to the law and that the American lawmakers should not "threaten to impose sanctions at every turn on other countries."

"I would like to advise the individual U.S. lawmakers to focus on and perform their duties well because they are spending taxpayer money," spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters. "They should certainly serve the Americans properly instead of poking their noses in other countries' af-

fairs and pretending to be a judge of human rights." China denies such internment camps exist but says criminals involved in minor offenses are sent to "vocational education and employment training centers" to help with their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

"The argument that 'a million Uighurs are detained in re-education centers' is completely untrue," Chinese representative Hu Li-anhe said earlier this month in responding to questions raised by the U.N.'s Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Geneva.

China insists tough measures are needed as part of a "People's War on Terror" to purge separatist and religious extremist elements

from Xinjiang, a vast region with more than 10 million Muslims. Deadly ethnic riots in its capital in 2009 killed hundreds and sporadic violence occurred in subsequent years. But reports of violence are increasingly rare and the existence of an effective organized resistance to Chinese rule is widely doubted.

China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the letter.

Rubio and Smith had raised the possibility of imposing sanctions on Chinese officials under the 2016 Global Magnitsky Act in April, asking the U.S. ambassador to Beijing, Terry Branstad, to visit the region and collect information on Xinjiang officials responsible for the mass detention policy.

The Global Magnitsky Act allows the U.S. government to place travel and financial restrictions on individuals anywhere in the world given credible proof of their role in human rights violations or corruption. For the first time in December, U.S. authorities designated 52 people under the act, including a Myanmar general allegedly involved in the deadly crackdown on Rohingya Muslims and a Chinese police official who oversaw the Beijing detention center that held Cao Shunli, a human rights activist who died in custody. Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Laura Stone said later in April that the U.S. was deeply concerned about the detentions and could take action under the Magnitsky act. □

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Lula conviction in Brazil spotlight: Was it sham or solid?

By **PETER PRENGAMAN**
MARCELO SILVA DE SOUSA
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The man easily favored to win Brazil's presidential election in October probably won't be on the ballot — blocked because of a conviction corruption that stems from a nationwide investigation that has ensnared many of the country's top businessmen and politicians. Here's a look at details of the case:

THE CONTROVERSY

Brazil's top electoral court is expected to soon rule on whether leftist former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva can run for president despite a corruption conviction.

Nearly all experts expect the court to rule against him, throwing the presidential race in the Latin America's largest nation into uncertainty.

That's causing renewed scrutiny at home and abroad of the 238-page conviction for corruption and money laundering imposed in July 2017 by Brazil's most famous judge.

Da Silva says the conviction and 12-year sentence amount to a "coup" by right-wing forces trying to prevent his return to office. Detractors say he's guilty and the nation can only move beyond a culture of endemic graft if the law applies to all.

Da Silva has won support abroad from figures including former U.S. presidential candidate Bernie Sanders and U.N.-appointed human rights experts. Writing an op-ed in the New York



In this April 7, 2018 file photo, former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva looks on before speaking to supporters outside the Metal Workers Union headquarters in Sao Bernardo do Campo, Brazil.

Associated Press

Times this month, Jorge Castaneda, a former Mexican foreign minister, also argued that da Silva should be allowed to run despite the conviction.

"The charges brought against him are too flimsy, the purported crime so petty (until now), the sentence so brazenly disproportionate and the stakes so high that in Latin America today, democracy should trump — so to speak — the rule of law," he wrote.

THE CASE

Judge Sergio Moro ruled that the former president helped steer contracts to construction company Grupo OAS before leaving office on Jan. 1, 2011.

In exchange, the judge said, da Silva was promised a renovated beachfront apartment and associated

perks totaling about \$1.1 million in Guaruja, a city outside of Sao Paulo.

Da Silva backers argue there was no crime because neither he nor his late wife ever legally owned the apartment. Moro said the intent to give it to him made it a crime.

Writing an op-ed in the New York Times this month, da Silva said the "linchpin" in the case against him was testimony from a man with a "personal interest to tell authorities what they wanted to hear." Da Silva was referring to former OAS president Leo Pinheiro, who got a reduced sentence after testifying that he met with da Silva in 2014 to discuss giving him the apartment as a gift.

Law professor Maristela Basso of the University of

Sao Paulo said any testimony "has to be combined with other evidence" to win conviction. "So to say it was all based on Pinheiro is not true."

THE EVIDENCE

Witnesses testifying against da Silva included other top officials from OAS and another construction company, a former senator from da Silva's Workers' Party and a black-market money dealer at the center of the sprawling Carwash corruption investigation.

Prosecutors also presented text messages in which OAS executives discussed renovations on the apartment using code names "boss" and "madam," allegedly referring to da Silva and his wife.

"The boss's kitchen project is ready, so we can set up

an appointment with madam whenever you want," Paulo Gordilho, then OAS director, told Pinheiro, according to the sentencing document.

Moro noted that while OAS bought the building in 2009, it never put the unit in question up for sale or showed it to other potential buyers. Renovations to the apartment were begun in 2014 after da Silva and his wife came to view it and before da Silva's wife made a second visit herself. Moro's decision says the work — which included installation of a sauna and increasing the size of a pool deck — is not the sort of renovation OAS typically does.

The deal apparently fell apart at some point in 2014, a time when Judge Moro and prosecutors were ramping up investigations into corruption in government contracts. Hundreds of businessmen and politicians, including many officials in da Silva's 2003-2010 administrations, were implicated.

DA SILVA'S VERSION

The former president acknowledged interest in buying the apartment as an investment, not receiving it as a gift. In his initial statements to investigators, da Silva said he decided against buying the apartment after his wife visited a second time in August 2014. He later changed that when testifying before Moro in 2017, saying he backed out after the couple's initial visit — before the renovations began that the judge says were made for them. □

LOCAL



Caribbean Flair & Great Gifts: Bon Bini to the Welcome Plaza



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Aruba Today talked to one of the vendors at this happy place. Elizabeth Guanipa is the proud owner of 'Divi Diva'. She creates pieces with driftwood and sea glass that she sells alongside beautiful handcrafted bijoux from other local artisans. The Welcome Plaza, in general, offers a diversity of souvenirs that fluctuates from the quintessential destination shirts, caps and magnets, to one-of-a-kind vases and paintings from well-known local artists such as Trudy Lampe and Elisa Lejuez.

The local government is stimulating the vendors at the plaza to showcase more authentic Aruban handcrafts, a push that is well received by many of the stores. This aspect, together with the lowest prices on the island, gives them a great edge in comparison to other local markets, as well as other cruise destinations. "We offer here a mix of the regular stuff, with real handmade local souvenirs. Make your pick, it is all here; from 50 Dollar cents on, you won't need to go elsewhere," says Elizabeth.

Many visitors find themselves unexpectedly dancing to the Caribbean tunes while strolling the isles. You can also chill from the heat with an ice-cold drink and a local snack at the 'Dushi Frutti' bar. And after you are done with your shopping, take the free old-world style trolley to downtown and the Main Street, as the Welcome Plaza is the starting and end point of this city tour. A complete experience to make your day, a perfect one since you already have the best souvenir in the pocket!

All the stores are open whenever you see a cruise ship in port, but several stores, including Divi Diva, are open from Monday through Saturday. Follow them on Instagram search-

ing for Welcome Plaza Aruba and find out more. The Welcome Plaza is located in front of the cruise ship harbor, between the Citgo gas station Boulevard and Diamonds International;

across from the central bus station, or just ask your taxi driver to drop you off there.

Source: Pictures by Aruba Ariba Media




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Travel Tips

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1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
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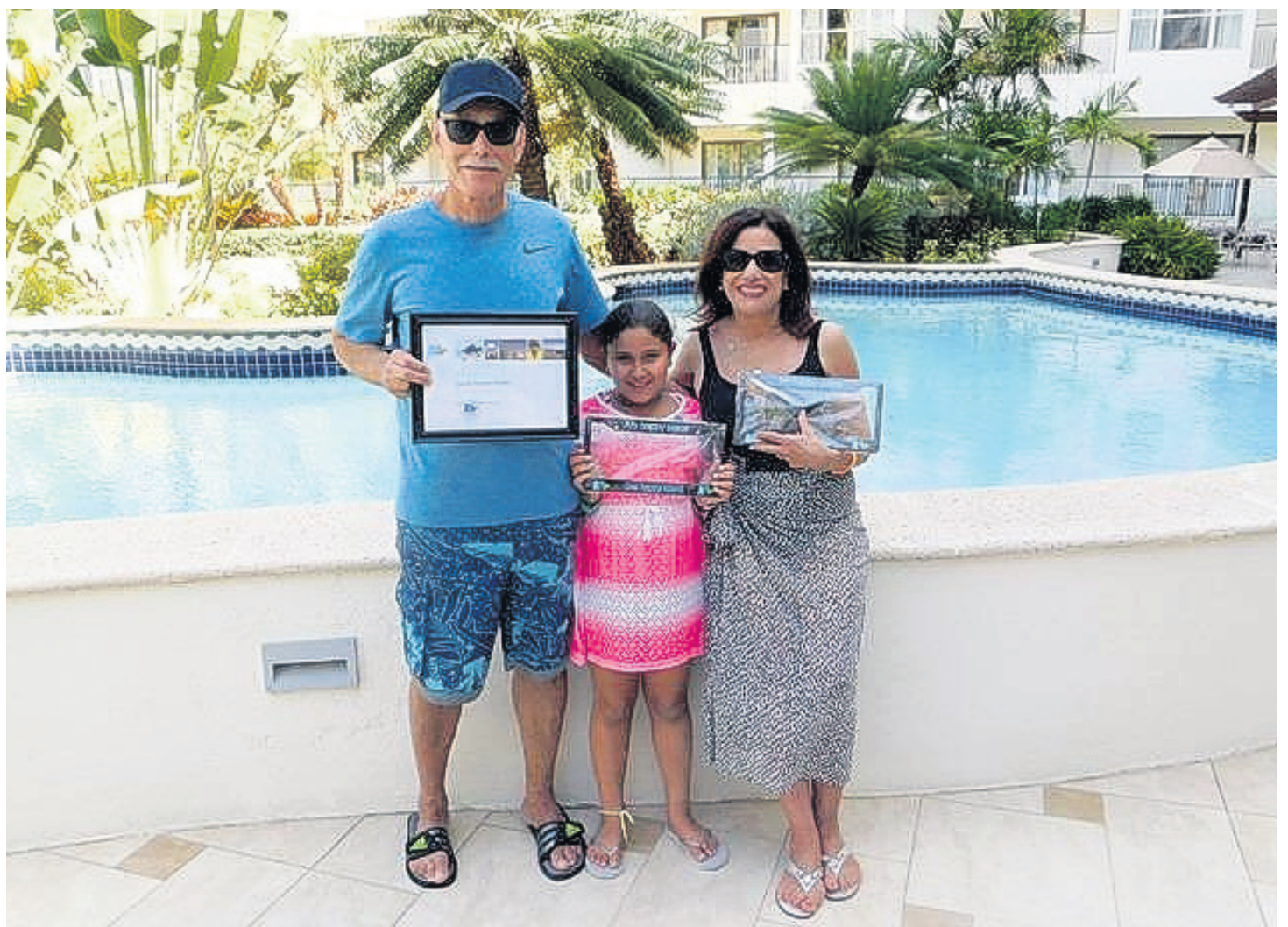
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Emely Ridderstaat together with representatives of Aruba Marriott Ocean Club presented the certificate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □



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ceriesToGo Aruba on our trip down to the island. Everything was delivered on time and the food quality was great. It was so much better going right to the beach when we arrived versus having to go food shopping. I'll definitely order from them again!" Save Time Grocery Shop Online! ☐



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Monthly Sports Calendar

ARUBA — Are you a fan of sports or do you like attending sporting events to show your support to fellow athletes? Well this section is right for you. Monthly Sports Calendar is a section where you can find sporting events taking place on the island of Aruba.



CFC6- Caribbean Fighting Championship

- CFC is the biggest sporting event of Aruba and the Caribbean. Thanks to the initiative of Mr. Nelson Nicolas and CFC, the best Aruba schools included Team Nedd Aruba and Milliard MMA Academy have decided to join together to train and fight together like TeamAruba to defend our flag in this event.
- September 1st
- Centro Deportivo Betico Croes, Santa Cruz
- Facebook CFC 6



Turibana Loop 2018

- Turibana Loop or better known as Turibana Classic is a annual 10.5KM race known for it's killer hills, this race can be run alone or in duo/relay teams.
 - September 9th
 - MFA Noord
- Facebook Turibana Loop 2018



Fitville Caribbean Championship & Funstacle Masters Aruba

- A 3 day functional fitness competition in collaboration with Funstacle Masters who will be taking the fun and the obstacles to a whole new level.
- September 7-8-9
- Harbor Arena
- Facebook Fitville Caribbean Championship



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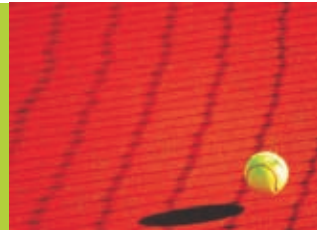
- Never Say You Can't Walk or Run 2018 is an annual race organized by one of the biggest running teams on the island namely Aruba Malmok Runners. This year will be their 7th edition. There will be a 10KM for 14 years and older, 6KM all ages and a 2KM for kids.
- September 16th
- Fisherman's Hut
- Facebook Aruba Malmok Runners



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- September 28-29-30
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- Facebook Strongest Man of Aruba

SPORTS



Tiger Woods wipes himself as he waits to play on the fourth hole during the final round of the Northern Trust golf tournament, Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018, in Paramus, N.J.

Woods trying to stay fresh for PGA Tour postseason

NORTON, Mass. (AP) — In the three days between the opening two FedEx Cup playoff events, Tiger Woods took it easy at home with a little driving and putting. Only one golf club was involved. "Driving the car a lot," Woods said Thursday, a reference to taking his two kids to after-school activities in Florida. The PGA Tour's postseason is supposed to be a sprint — four tournaments in five weeks, from a 125-man field at the start until it's whittled down to a 30-man field that gets to the FedEx Cup finale at the Tour Championship. It feels more like a marathon in the middle, especially during a heat wave that has gripped the Northeast, especially for players like Woods, Justin Thomas and those who expect to have four playoff events followed by a sleep-deprived, energy-sapping week in France at the Ryder Cup.

Continued on Page 22

PLACE YOUR BETTS

11-run seventh lifts Red Sox over Marlins

Boston Red Sox's Mookie Betts connects on a two-run double during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2018.

Associated Press
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Chair umpire's chat with Kyrgios at U.S. Open raises questions

By HOWARD FENDRICH

NEW YORK (AP) — Nick Kyrgios was losing big at the U.S. Open on Thursday, and barely even trying. Didn't move while so-so serves flew by for aces. Casually put groundstrokes into the net. Double-faulted without caring.

The crowd began booing. The chair umpire, Mohamed Lahyani, decided to intervene. In an unusual sight for Grand Slam tennis, Lahyani clambered down out of his seat during a break between games, leaned over with hands on knees, and spoke with the 30th-seeded Kyrgios, saying, among other things, "I want to help you."

It all seemed like an impromptu intervention for the mercurial Kyrgios, right out there on Court 17 at Flushing Meadows, and it raised questions about whether Lahyani overstepped his duties as someone who's primarily there to keep score and keep order. Kyrgios went from trailing by a set and a break at the time to wresting control of the match — setting up a third-round showdown against Roger Federer — by coming back to beat Pierre-Hugues Herbert 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-3, 6-0.

"This was not his job," Herbert said about Lahyani, whom he thinks should be sanctioned in some way. "I don't think he's a coach, he's an umpire, and he should stay on his chair for that."

The U.S. Open's referee and chief umpire were reviewing what happened, as was the Grand Slam Board. Chair umpires are never made available to the media, but tournament referee Brian Earley said Lahyani explained that he left his perch "to make sure he could communicate effectively" with Kyrgios in a noisy arena.

According to Earley, the official said he wanted to check whether Kyrgios needed medical attention and to warn the player that Lahyani "would need

to take action" if the "seeming lack of interest in the match continued."

During an occasionally confrontational and sarcastic exchange with reporters, Kyrgios laughed at the suggestion that he had received coaching or a pep talk from Lahyani.

"I mean, like, I don't have a coach. I haven't had a coach for, like, years. Of course he wasn't coaching me. Like, what are you talking about?" Kyrgios said.

"He said he liked me. I'm not sure if that was encouragement. He just said that it's not a good look," Kyrgios said about his chat with Lahyani. "Look. I wasn't feeling good. I know what I was doing out there wasn't good. I wasn't really listening to him, but I knew it wasn't a good look."

Kyrgios, a 23-year-old Australian, has run into trouble in the past for not giving his all during matches, even drawing a fine and suspension from the ATP men's tour in 2016.

As Herbert put it: "Just sometimes he's mentally not here."

What there's never been a doubt about, however, is Kyrgios' talent and ability to entertain — when he puts his mind to it. He burst onto the scene by stunning Rafael Nadal as a teenager at Wimbledon in 2014, and he owns a victory over 20-time major champion Federer, too.

After reaching the third round by defeating Benoit Paire 7-5, 6-4, 6-4, Federer criticized Lahyani for going to talk to Kyrgios for as long as he did, and from as close as he did.

Normally, a chair umpire leans over from his or her post to speak to a seated player during a change-over.

"I don't know what he said. I don't care what he said. It was not just about, 'How are you feeling?' 'Oh, I'm not feeling so well.' Go back up to the chair. He was there for too long. It's a conversation. Conversations can change your mindset. It

can be a physio, a doctor, an umpire, for that matter," Federer said. "That's why it won't happen again. I think everybody knows that."

It was, to be sure, the most conversation-worthy topic on Day 4 at Flushing Meadows, where the afternoon's results were fairly humdrum. Two past U.S. Open champions were on the Arthur Ashe Stadium night session schedule: Two-time winner Novak Djokovic faced Tennys Sandgren of the U.S., before 2006 titlist Maria Sharapova played Sorana Cirstea of Romania. □



Alexander Zverev, of Germany, reacts after defeating Peter Polansky, of Canada, during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018, in New York.

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Miami Marlins starting pitcher Trevor Richards prepares for his next pitch as Boston Red Sox's Eduardo Nunez rounds the bases on his solo home run off during the second inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2018.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press
BOSTON (AP) — Mookie Betts homered early and had a two-run double in Boston's 11-run seventh inning and the Red Sox rallied to beat Miami Marlins after pitcher David Price was knocked out with a bruised left wrist. The 33-year-old lefty exited in the fourth after being

struck by a line drive off the bat of Austin Dean on the final play of the previous inning. With the Red Sox trailing 5-3, Blake Swihart had a pinch-hit RBI single and Jackie Bradley Jr. tied it with a double before Betts hit his go-ahead shot into the right-center gap off Adam Conley (3-4). Brock Holt fol-

Red Sox rally for 11-run inning after Price hurt in 14-6 win

lowed with a pinch-hit triple and scored on Xander Bogaerts' single.

Eduardo Nunez and Ian Kinsler had RBI singles before Swihart doubled home his second run of the inning and scored on Bradley's single. By the time it was over, Boston had its biggest inning of the season.

Betts and Eduardo Nunez each hit a solo homer for the Red Sox, who won for the 22nd time in their last 26 interleague games. They increased their AL East lead to 7 1/2 games over the New York Yankees.

Dean and Derek Dietrich each had a solo shot for the Marlins. Starlin Castro had two RBI singles.

Tyler Thornburg (2-0) pitched a scoreless inning of relief for the win.

WHITE SOX 4, YANKEES 1
NEW YORK (AP) — Ryan LaMarre homered and drove in a career-best four runs, Reynaldo Lopez stifled the Yankees again despite diminished velocity and Chicago beat New York.

LaMarre hit a pair of run-scoring doubles off starter CC Sabathia (7-5), then lifted a leadoff shot against Chad Green in the seventh. The 29-year-old had one previous homer this season and one all of last season between Triple-A and the majors.

Chicago has won five of six and 11 of 15. The rebuilding White Sox took two of three for their first series victory in the Bronx since 2005. New York is 9-3 in its past 12.

Jace Fry struck out Gleyber Torres and pinch-hitter Luke Voit with a runner on for his fourth save.

Lopez (5-9) allowed a run over seven innings.

DODGERS 3, RANGERS 1
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Alex Wood pitched seven scoreless innings and Los Angeles hit three solo homers to beat Texas and stretching its winning streak to five games.

Cody Bellinger and Manny Machado hit first-pitch homers off Mike Minor (10-7). Yasmani Grandal also went deep for the defending National League champion Dodgers.

Wood (8-6) limited the Rangers to four singles, throwing 67 of 98 pitches for strikes with five strikeouts and two walks. Kenta Maeda, a 20-game starter for the Dodgers this season, worked the ninth instead of struggling closer Kenley Jansen to get his first save since June 2017 despite giving up an RBI double to Adrian Beltre.

Beltre, baseball's active career hits leader, matched Robin Yount for 17th on the career list with his 3,142nd hit.

ASTROS 5, ATHLETICS 4
HOUSTON (AP) — Tyler White homered with one out in the ninth inning to lift Houston past Oakland.

White, who also homered Monday, sent a pitch from Jeurys Familia (4-1) to the seats in left field. The Astros won two of three games in the series to move 2 1/2 games ahead of Oakland atop the AL West.

George Springer and Alex

Bregman added two hits apiece and both drove in a run to help the Astros to their seventh win in eight games. Roberto Osuna (2-2) allowed one hit in a scoreless ninth.

The Astros lost the lead in the seventh when Brad Peacock took over for starter Dallas Keuchel and struggled with location. Peacock walked Matt Chapman, Jed Lowrie and Khris Davis to load the bases before plunking Stephen Piscotty on the arm to tie it at 4.

TWINS 4, INDIANS 3

CLEVELAND (AP) — Robbie Grossman had a two-out, two-run single off struggling Cleveland closer Cody Allen in the seventh inning to lift Minnesota.

Down 3-2, the Twins scored twice in the seventh off Allen (4-6), the Indians' career saves leader who has not been sharp of late and could lose his job to Brad Hand.

Minnesota's Joe Mauer became the third player in club history to score 1,000 career runs. Mauer doubled and scored on Eddie Rosario's double in the fifth to join Hall of Famers Kirby Puckett (1,071) and Harmon Killebrew (1,047). Twins rookie Williams Astudillo hit his first career homer in the third.

Trevor May (3-0) picked up the win, and Trevor Hildenberger worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his fifth save.

ROYALS 9, TIGERS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Adalberto Mondesi hit a two-run homer and had four RBIs, Danny Duffy allowed two hits over six innings and Kansas City routed Detroit to sweep the two-game series.

Duffy (8-11) gave up both hits and his only run in the first inning, when Mikie Mahtook drove in Jose Iglesias with a two-out single. The left-hander labored through the frame but breezed the rest of the way, striking out six while working around a trio of walks. □

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Yelich hits for cycle, Brewers top Reds 13-12 in 10 innings

By The Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Christian Yelich led Milwaukee's big comeback by hitting for the cycle, and Jesus Aguilar homered in the 10th inning, powering the Brewers to a 13-12 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday night.

Aguilar connected off Raisel Iglesias (2-3) for Milwaukee's fourth homer of the game, halting the Brewers' month-long slide. Milwaukee has dropped 11 of 20 and slipped into third place in the NL Central, five games behind the Cubs.

Yelich became the eighth Brewers player to hit for the cycle and the first since George Kottaras on Sept. 3, 2011, at Houston. Yelich also matched the club record with six hits of the Brewers' 22 hits, including a two-run homer.

Mike Moustakas' solo shot put Milwaukee ahead 11-10 in the eighth, but Joakim Soria's wild pitch allowed Billy Hamilton to score the tying run in the bottom of the inning. Jeremy Jeffress (7-1) gave up Brandon Dixon's homer in the 10th.

The Brewers extended their Great American Ball Park record to 21 straight games with at least one homer. Cincinnati connected five times, including a disputed three-run shot by reliever Michael Lorenzen that made it 10-6 in the sixth inning.

CUBS 2, METS 1, 11 innings, completion of suspended game

METS 10, CUBS 3

CHICAGO (AP) — Todd Frazier hit a grand slam and drove in a season-high five runs to lead New York past Chicago, avenging a tough loss earlier in the day. Frazier gave New York a 4-0 lead in the first inning with his drive against Alec Mills (0-1) and added an RBI sin-

gle in a two-run ninth.

Jason Vargas (5-8) won his third straight start. The Mets had 16 hits and avoided a season sweep after dropping the first six games against the NL Central leaders.

Victor Caratini hit a two-run homer for Chicago in the ninth.

The Cubs had won a season-high seven in a row after pulling out a 2-1 victory earlier on Ben Zobrist's RBI single with the bases loaded in the 11th. That game was suspended in the top of the 10th because of rain the previous night.

In the suspended game, Zobrist grounded the winning single up the middle off Daniel Zamora with one out in the 11th after Chicago loaded the bases against Paul Sewald (0-5).

Jesse Chavez (5-2) got the win with a scoreless 11th, and Anthony Rizzo matched a career high with four hits.

PADRES 8, MARINERS 3

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Hunter Renfroe homered and drove in four runs, Manuel Margot had a homer among his three hits and prized rookie Luis Urias had his first three hits for San Diego, helping the Padres beat Seattle for a two-game sweep.

The offensive outburst made a winner of rookie left-hander Joey Lucchesi (7-7), who stayed in the game after needing a few minutes to recover from Ryon Healy's comebacker that glanced off his glove and then his groin. The big southpaw held the Mariners to one run and six hits in a career-high 6 2/3 innings, matched his career-best with nine strikeouts and walked two.

Eric Hosmer also had three hits for the Padres, who worked over Mariners start-



Milwaukee Brewers' Christian Yelich hits a double off Cincinnati Reds relief pitcher Michael Lorenzen during the sixth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2018, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

er Erasmo Ramirez (1-3) for seven runs and nine hits in three innings.

PIRATES 2, CARDINALS 0

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Trevor Williams pitched six strong innings, Starling Marte had an RBI single in the sixth inning, and Pittsburgh beat St. Louis.

Williams (11-9) gave up three hits and struck out a career-high eight. He has allowed just four earned runs over his last eight starts and improved to 5-2 with 0.75 ERA during that stretch. Marte lifted a bloop single to left field off Miles Miko-

las (13-4) to bring in Jordy Mercer with the first run. Gregory Polanco followed with a run-scoring single to help Pittsburgh win for just the second time in eight games. Edgar Santana and Keone Kela each pitched an inning, and Felipe Vazquez got the last three outs to complete the five-hitter and get his 28th save in 32 chances.

RAYS 8, BRAVES 5

ATLANTA (AP) — C.J. Cron homered and had four hits, Tommy Pham added a two-run shot and Tampa Bay beat Atlanta in a game

delayed twice by rain.

Tampa Bay has won nine of 10 and outscored opponents 54-26 over that span. The Braves have dropped three of five but still lead the NL East by 3½ games.

Atlanta starter Sean Newcomb (11-7) struggled from the outset. He gave up eight hits and six runs in four innings.

Rays starter Diego Castillo allowed Johan Camargo's three-run homer in the first. Jalen Beeks (4-1) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the third and stranded a runner at third in the fourth. □

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Red Bulls beat Dynamo 1-0 to take East lead

By The Associated Press

HARRISON, N.J. (AP) — Brian White scored his first MLS goal in his first start and the New York Red Bulls beat the Houston Dynamo 1-0 on Wednesday night to move atop the Eastern Conference.

New York (17-6-4) extended its undefeated streak to six games — with a fourth win during that stretch. The Red Bulls moved one point ahead of longtime Supporters' Shield leader Atlanta United with seven games remaining. Houston (7-12-7) is winless in its last nine matches — one away from tying a club record.

White, the No. 16 selection in the 2018 MLS SuperDraft, scored in the 55th minute on an easy tap-in. Luis Robles recorded his 59th career shutout.

New York, which ended a stretch of five games in 15 days, has won eight of the past 11 games in the series. **UNION 2, D.C. UNITED 0**

WASHINGTON (AP) — C.J.

Sapong had a goal and an assist, helping Philadelphia beat D.C. United for its fourth straight victory.

Philadelphia (12-11-3) matched the club's highest win total, set in 2013. D.C. United (7-11-6) has lost two games in a row after a three-game winning streak. Sapong opened the scoring in the 29th minute with an easy finish of a rebound for his first goal since July 21st. He has eight goals in 10 games against D.C. United.

Fabrice-Jean Picault added a goal in the 61st.

EARTHQUAKES 4, FC DALLAS 3

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Chris Wondolowski scored his 142nd career goal on a go-ahead score in the 62nd minute to help San Jose snap an 11-game home winless stretch.

San Jose (4-14-8) won at home for the first time since March 18th, ending the longest home winless stretch in MLS history. Wondolowski



Portland Timbers' Larrys Mabiala, left, and Diego Chara (21) celebrate after Chara's second-half goal against Toronto FC during an MLS soccer match Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2018, in Portland, Ore. Associated Press

is three goals shy of tying Landon Donovan for the MLS record.

The Earthquakes led 2-1 at halftime — with two goals from Valeri Qazaishvili —

before the teams traded four goals in an 11-minute span early in the second half. Four of Qazaishvili's eight goals this season have come against FC Dal-

las.

Halftime substitute Santiago Mosquera tied it at 2 for FC Dallas (13-6-7) in the 51st with his first goal since April 29th. □

PGA TOUR

Continued from Page 17

Playing golf at the TPC Boston doesn't compare with Heartbreak Hill. Even so, keeping up a steady pace can feel like hard work.

"I've had a hard time keeping my energy up the last couple of days," Thomas said. "I've hit some balls and I've just felt really weak. That's just from the traveling and playing a lot these past couple months. But that's what afternoons are for, and that's what Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday this week is for — to make sure you get rested, so come tomorrow you're ready to go."

The Dell Championship starts Friday for the traditional Labor Day finish at the TPC Boston, though this will be the last time for that. Because the Boston area has shown such strong support for this tournament since it began in 2003, it was not killed off entirely with the shrinking postseason next year.

Instead, it will alternate with Liberty National in New Jersey for the opening FedEx Cup event.



Tiger Woods watches his shot on the sixth hole during the final round of the Northern Trust golf tournament, Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018, in Paramus, N.J.

Associated Press

But it will be the last time the final round ends on Labor Day because next year the season ends on Aug. 25, before football gets started.

A little more than just advancing to the next FedEx Cup event is at stake this week.

The top 70 in the standings will go to the BMW Championship outside Philadelphia, and for a small number of players, it's either the last chance or another chance to audition as a potential captain's pick for the Ryder Cup.

Bryson DeChambeau did himself a world of good with his four-shot victory Sunday at The Northern Trust, especially having narrowly missed qualifying on his own. Woods and Phil Mickelson would appear to be certain choices.

U.S. captain Jim Furyk announces three of his picks on Tuesday, and the fourth pick will be made after the BMW Championship.

For now, it's all about moving on and trying to keep shirts dry in this sweat-soaked environment, though a break from the

heat is expected by the weekend.

The last two FedEx Cup champions won at the TPC Boston. Rory McIlroy won in 2016, which enabled him to capture the FedEx Cup when he won the Tour Championship. A year ago, Thomas won and was high enough in the standings that a runner-up finish in the Tour Championship was enough for him to win the \$10 million bonus.

Thomas suggested his 63 in the third round was key to winning the Cup.

"I wouldn't have had the chance going into ... Monday," he said. "And because of that, I may not have won on Monday. If I don't win this tournament, I probably don't get it done in Atlanta. So I guess when you look at it that way, it was a very fortuitous round." McIlroy, meanwhile, chose to sit out last week. That's not to suggest he was taking it easy.

McIlroy said it has been since January that he and longtime coach Michael Bannon were able to spend more than four days together. They spent 10

days together and looked at video of McIlroy through the years, including one video of when he was 16.

McIlroy at 29 liked what he saw of McIlroy at 16.

"If that was a 16-year-old in front of me today, I'd say, 'You're going to do pretty good,'" he said. "I made quite a bit of progress last week. It feels good, and it's not as if we're trying to reinvent the wheel, we're just trying to go back to stuff I've done before."

Woods did play last week and dropped in the standings about as much as McIlroy, who didn't play at all. Woods tied for 40th, dropping from No. 20 to No. 27. He didn't show up until Thursday morning and played his pro-am round Thursday afternoon, a rarity for Woods because he usually is the first to tee off in pro-ams.

He spoke midmorning from under a tent, and already sweat was pouring down the side of his cheeks.

"Some of the guys who skipped last week, it might have been a smart move," Woods said. "It's a long stretch." □

Bouhanni sprints to win Vuelta's Stage 6, Molard keeps lead

SAN JAVIER, Spain (AP) — One day after finishing last, Nacer Bouhanni rebounded in fine fashion by sprinting to win the sixth stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Thursday. FDJ rider Rudy Molard kept the lead for a second straight day after finishing shortly behind fellow Frenchman Bouhanni. Bouhanni claimed the win for his Cofidis team in just under four hours by edging the closest of five rivals by a wheel length in the mostly flat 155.7-kilometer (96.7-mile) ride from Huelcal-Overa to San Javier along the dry and rocky southeastern coast.

"I was very motivated to turn this situation around," Bouhanni said. "I really wanted to get another important win." Bouhanni also won two stages in the 2014 edition of the Vuelta.

But after not being selected to ride in the Tour de France in July, Bouhanni was having a rough start to this year's Vuelta.

Bouhanni finished Stage 5 in last place, 25 minutes behind the stage winner. He was also handed a 30-second penalty that was originally reported by Spanish media as resulting from a heated argument with his sports director. Cofidis denied that there had been a dispute and attributed the penalty to the rider taking food in a prohibited area. Bouhanni proved a day later why he is considered one of cycling's top sprinters by charging to the win ahead of Danny Van Poppel (LottoNL-Jumbo), followed by Elia Viviani (Quick-Step Floors) in third. The stage was uneventful until a small crash rounding a corner in a town crossing with 25 kilometers remaining as the peloton entered a section subject to crosswinds. □

Pats' Gronk gets \$4.3M raise, highest paid tight end in NFL

By TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

(AP) — Rob Gronkowski of the New England Patriots has all the incentives to become the NFL's highest paid tight end.

Agent Drew Rosenhaus said Thursday the Patriots have added \$4.3 million in incentives to Gronkowski's contract for the next two seasons. The deal includes \$1 million in per game bonuses and \$3.3 million in incentives for catches, playing time and touchdowns. Gronkowski has the potential to make \$12.3 million this season and \$13.3 next

year when his base salary jumps to \$9 million.

If he hits all the incentives, Gronkowski would be the NFL's highest paid tight end. He is fourth among tight ends in base salary, trailing Green Bay's Jimmy Graham (\$10 million), Kansas City's Travis Kelce (\$9.36 million) and Washington's Jordan Reed (\$9.35 million). Most of the incentives are reachable if the 29-year-old says healthy.

The nine-year veteran would receive incentives of \$1.1 million for 70 catches, playing 80 percent of the offensive snaps, nine touchdown catches and



In this June 7, 2018, file photo, New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski catches the ball during an NFL football minicamp practice, in Foxborough, Mass.

1,085 yards receiving. However, he can collect on no more than three incentives. Gronkowski had 69 catches for 1,084 yards and eight touchdowns in 14 games last season.

Gronkowski's deal was first reported by ESPN.

This is the second straight year the Patriots have add-

ed incentives to Gronkowski's contract before the start of the season.

Gronkowski has not caught a pass in limited action in the preseason. He warmed up with the Patriots before Thursday night's preseason finale against the Giants, but he was not expected to play. □

Arbitrator sends Kaepernick's grievance against NFL to trial

By ROB MAADDI

AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Colin

Kaepernick and his legal team are driving inside NFL territory, forcing the league and its 32 teams to brace for a defensive stand.

An arbitrator is sending Kaepernick's grievance with the NFL to trial, denying the league's request to throw out the quarterback's claims that owners conspired to keep him out of the league because of his protests of social injustice.

Kaepernick's lawyer Mark Geragos tweeted a picture Thursday of a ruling by arbitrator Stephen B. Burbank. The NFL declined a request for comment.

Kaepernick, who led the San Francisco 49ers to a Super Bowl appearance and NFC championship game in consecutive seasons, argues that owners have colluded to keep him off any NFL roster since he hit free agency in 2017.

Burbank's decision means there was sufficient evidence of collusion to keep Kaepernick's drive going.



In this Dec. 11, 2016, file photo, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick stands in the bench area during the second half of the team's NFL football game against the New York Jets in Santa Clara, Calif.

Now some owners, coaches and team executives will be called to testify during the season, a situation the league hoped to avoid.

Kaepernick began a wave of protests by NFL players two seasons ago, kneeling during the national anthem to protest police brutality and racial inequality. The protests have grown into one of the most polarizing issues in sports, with President Donald Trump loudly urging the league to sus-

pend or fire players who demonstrate during the anthem.

Kaepernick contends the owners violated their collective bargaining agreement with players by conspiring to keep him off teams.

The case hinges on whether owners worked together rather than decided individually to not sign Kaepernick.

A similar grievance is still pending by unsigned safe-

ty Eric Reid, who played with Kaepernick in San Francisco and joined in the protests.

Meanwhile, the league and players union still haven't resolved whether players will be punished this season if they choose to kneel or demonstrate during the national anthem.

Owners approved a policy requiring players to stand if they are on the sideline during the national anthem, allowing them to stay off the field if they wish.

But the league and union put that on hold after the Miami Dolphins faced backlash for classifying the protests as conduct potentially detrimental to the team — putting players at risk of fines or suspensions. □

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Useful or creepy? Machines suggest Gmail replies

By MAE ANDERSON

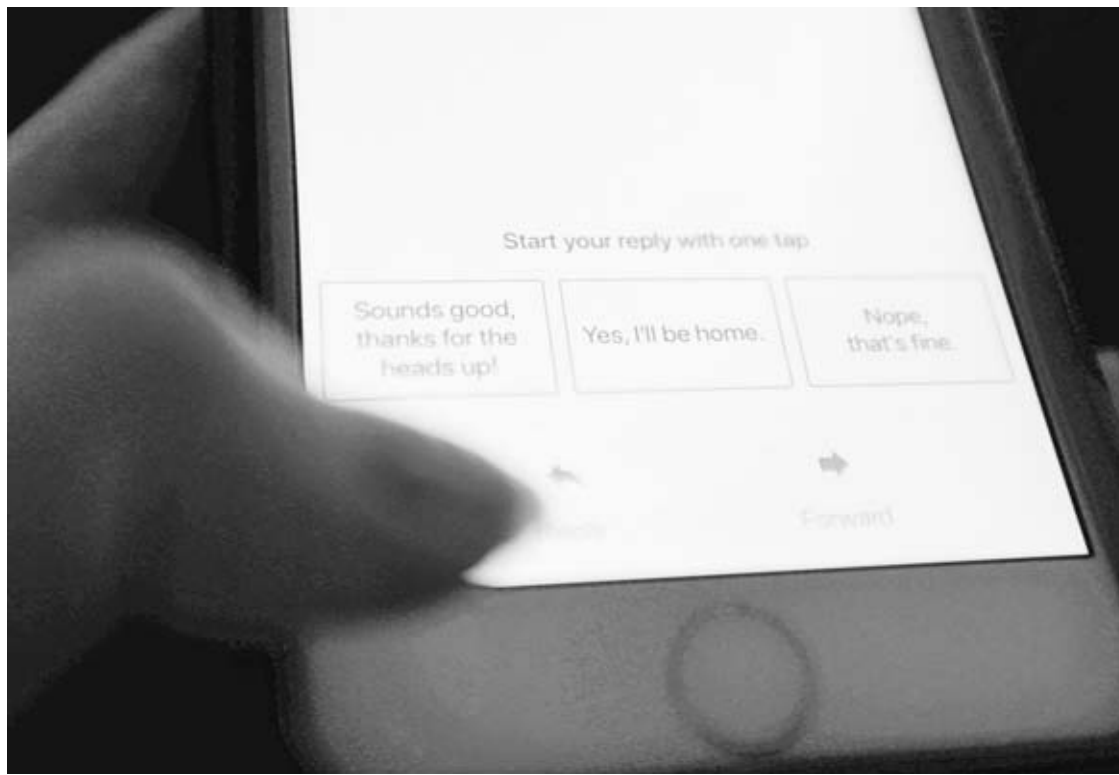
NEW YORK (AP) — Google is toeing the line between helping you save time and creeping you out as it turns to machines to suggest email replies on your behalf.

The customized auto-responses come in the latest version of Gmail on the web and expand on a feature already available on Android devices and iPhones. They're just one more example of how artificial intelligence is seeping into everyday online life, whether it's to tailor product recommendations or correct spelling.

So far the new feature has been drawing mixed responses from users.

The new feature, called Smart Reply, offers three short responses, like "It was great seeing you too," or "I'll look into it." Unlike standard auto-replies when on vacation, for instance, these are customized to an individual email based on its context. If you select one, you can either send it immediately or edit it before sending.

The responses are automatically created using Google's artificial intelligence systems. Humans aren't reading people's emails, but machines are scanning them. Although Google stopped scanning email to target advertising in 2017, it still scans them to filter out junk mail, identify phishing scams and, now, to create suggested



This Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2018, photo shows three Gmail automated response options for an email on an iPhone in New York.

Associated Press

replies. (Yahoo and AOL, both owned by Verizon, still scan email for advertising.) Google's suggestions draw on what's in your email, such as the text of the message and the subject line. The analysis can include past conversations. For example, if someone says "Thanks!" more often than "Thanks," with no exclamation point, the suggested response would likely reflect that.

It's not known, though, how far Google goes in scanning your email. For instance, Gmail scans attachments for security risks, but is it also using that information to customize

responses? The machines behind Google Photos can tell whether an image has food, flowers or the beach. Might Gmail suggest, "How was lunch?" Google didn't respond to a query for details on what it scans for replies.

Brian Lam, a San Diego attorney who focuses on privacy and data security, said auto-replies represent "a tradeoff between privacy and new features that consumers may want."

Google has been scanning Gmail since its debut in 2004, so scanning for auto-replies shouldn't come as a surprise. Lam said he has no concerns as long as com-

panies disclose they are doing this.

"There's a market incentive to behave responsibly," he said. There's been consumer backlash when people get wind of companies that don't respect privacy. People decide not to use those services."

Not every email will get suggestions — only those that Google thinks will lend themselves to a short reply. Graham Gardner, a freelance photographer and leather-goods maker in Minneapolis, said he has used smart replies in Gmail several times over the past few months. He said the speed of response can be

helpful, particularly if he is on his phone and can reply with one tap.

"It can help with quick replies that don't need too much elaboration, so you can have peace of mind quickly and sort out more specific information in a full reply later," he said.

But Maya Castro, an assignment editor for a TV station in San Francisco, said she sticks to her own voice when emailing, even though she's OK with auto-responses for text messages and Facebook chats.

"It boils down to tone and mood," she said. "Smart- or auto-responses show a lack of thought."

To disable the "Smart Reply" feature on a mobile device, simply go to "Settings" and uncheck the box next to "Smart Reply." But for now, there's no way to disable the feature on the web. However, users can return to the "classic" version of Gmail on the web by selecting that option under "Settings."

Suggesting responses isn't the only way Google uses artificial intelligence to help people manage their emails, as it has been rolling out a new version of Gmail since April. The new Gmail has "Nudges," a feature that reminds users to reply to emails it deems important. Gmail also prods users who forget to include an attachment to an email that uses the word "attached" or something similar. □

Hack causes major apps to show anti-Semitic name

By ALEXANDRA VILLAR-REAL

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Technology users got a surprise Thursday morning when their social and lifestyle apps seemingly labeled the United States' most populous city with an anti-Semitic header.

A number of people posted screenshots on Twitter showing "New York City" had been relabeled "Jewtropolis" on the Mapbox map used by com-

panies and services such as Snapchat parent Snap, Citi Bike and Foursquare.

Mapbox, a provider of digital map technology, said it suffered a "malicious edit" by a person who tried to make multiple changes to its maps' data. Only one edit was published due to human error and was live for less than an hour before being deleted.

Nathan Roy, 25, was among users alarmed by the name change. Though he lives in Boston, he was

alerted to the issue by a friend from New York. He said his first reaction was shock.

"I know that a lot of people out there harbor these feelings," Roy said. "It's just always disappointing to see it crop up again and again."

Evan Bernstein, a regional director for the Anti-Defamation League, seemed less surprised. He said people with anti-Semitic beliefs have been empowered since the 2016 election

and are hiding behind the internet.

"Haters are increasingly looking for ways to take advantage of new technologies and promote anti-Semitism," Bernstein said. "We see hate going online. This is just another perfect example of that."

The League tracked a 90-percent increase between 2016 and 2017 in anti-Semitic incidents in New York state. Such incidents included physical assaults, attacks, harass-

ment and vandalism.

Mapbox said it "has a zero tolerance policy against hate speech" and its employees would "continue to investigate this act and make appropriate changes to further limit the potential for future human error."

A spokesperson for Snap said it relies on third-party mapping data and worked with Mapbox to fix the hack. Snap said the defacement was "deeply offensive." □

US consumer spending up a solid 0.4 percent in July

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer spending rose a solid 0.4 percent in July, the sixth straight month of healthy gains. At the same time, a key gauge of inflation posted its sharpest annual gain in six years, likely keeping the Federal Reserve on track to keep raising interest rates gradually.

The July spending gain, fueled by strong job growth and tax cuts, followed a similar 0.4 percent rise in June, the government said Thursday. Inflation, as measured by a barometer closely watched by the Fed, rose 2.3 percent for the 12 months that ended in July, the fastest year-over-year increase since 2012.

Though the inflation figure exceeded the Fed's 2



In this Aug. 2, 2018, file photo customers browse in an Apple store in New York.

Associated Press

percent target, its officials have said they're willing to tolerate slightly higher inflation temporarily in light of a six-year period when it fell short of the Fed's 2 percent goal. They are widely expected to keep gradually raising their benchmark rate, thereby leading to slightly higher rates on

many consumer and business loans.

Andrew Hunter, U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said he thinks core inflation — which excludes the volatile components of energy and food — will exceed the Fed's 2 percent target, "particularly with wage growth starting to show clearer

signs of acceleration."

Hunter predicted that the Fed will feel a need to keep raising rates once a quarter into next year.

Personal income, which provides the fuel for future spending increases, advanced by a moderate 0.3 percent in July after a 0.4 percent June increase. Modestly higher wages and salaries reflect an unemployment rate that has reached its lowest level in nearly 18 years.

The overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew at a 4.2 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter, which also reflected a solid rebound in consumer spending, after a lackluster performance in the first quarter. Economists are forecasting that GDP growth will slow slightly to a still solid 3 percent rate

in the current quarter, supported by continued gains in consumer spending.

"We are watching consumer spending like a hawk because the economy won't repeat the second quarter's 4.2 percent fast pace without the consumer spending more of their tax cut money," said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at MUFG Union Bank in New York.

The inflation rise in July, after a 2.2 percent rise in June, was driven by rising energy prices. A gauge of core inflation rose 2 percent for the 12 months ending in July, up from a 1.9 percent year-over-year increase in June.

The Fed has raised its key rate twice this year and is projecting a total of four rate hikes for the full year, with the next one expected next month. □

Microsoft to contractors: Give new parents paid leave

By MATT O'BRIEN

Associated Press

Microsoft will begin requiring its contractors to offer their U.S. employees paid leave to care for a new child.

It's common for tech firms to offer generous family leave benefits for their own software engineers and other full-time staff, but paid leave advocates say it's still rare to require similar benefits for contracted workers such as janitors, landscapers, cafeteria crews and software consultants.

"Given its size and its reach, this is a unique and hopefully trailblazing offering," said Vicki Shabo, vice president at the National Partnership for Women and Families.

The new policy affects businesses with at least 50 U.S.-based employees that do substantial work with Microsoft that involves access to its buildings or its computing network. It doesn't affect suppliers of goods. Contractors would have to offer at least 12 weeks of leave to those working with Microsoft; the policy wouldn't affect the con-

tractors' arrangements with other companies. Leave-takers would get 66 percent of regular pay, up to \$1,000 weekly.

The policy announced Thursday rolls out over the next year as the company amends its contracts with those vendors. That may mean some of Microsoft's costs will rise to cover the new benefits, said Dev Stahlkopf, the company's corporate vice president and general counsel.

"That's just fine and we think it's well worth the price," she said.

Microsoft doesn't disclose how many contracted workers it uses, but it's in the thousands.

The new policy expands on Microsoft's 2015 policy requiring contractors to offer paid sick days and vacation. That sparked other companies such as Facebook to make similar commitments. Facebook doesn't guarantee that contract workers receive paid parental leave, but provides a \$4,000 new child benefit for new parents who don't get leave.



In this April 28, 2015, file photo, a man walks past a Microsoft sign set up for the Microsoft BUILD conference at Moscone Center in San Francisco.

Associated Press

A much smaller California tech company, SurveyMonkey, announced a paid family leave plan for its contract workers earlier this year.

Microsoft said its new policy is partially inspired by a Washington state law taking effect in 2020 guaranteeing eligible workers 12 weeks paid time off for the

birth or adoption of a child. The state policy, signed into law last year, follows California and a handful of other states in allowing new parents to tap into an insurance fund that all workers pay into. A federal paid parental leave plan proposed by President Donald Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, could rely on a similar model but has had little traction. □




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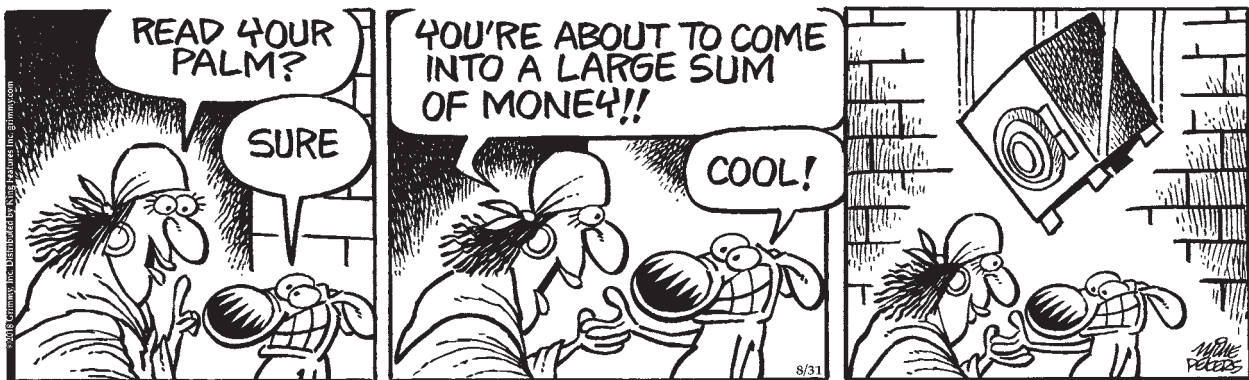
6 Chix



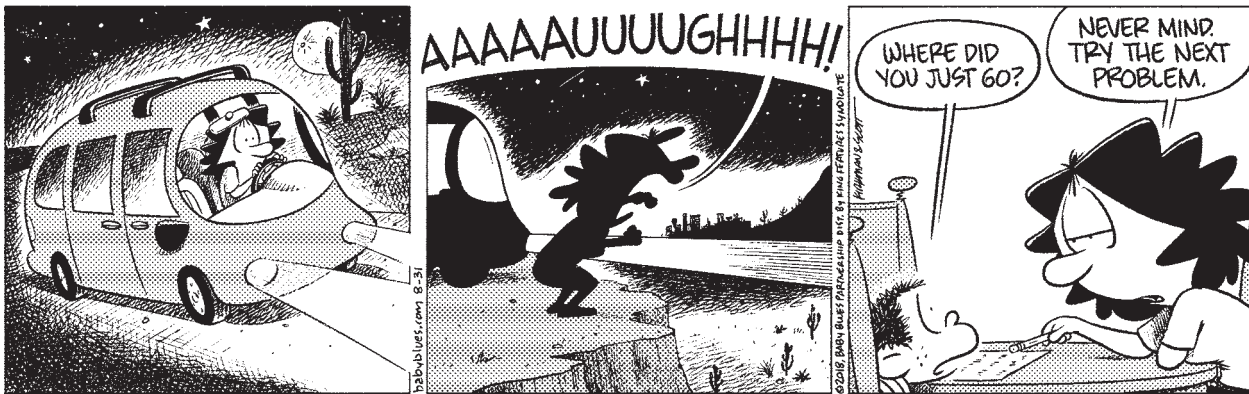
Blondie



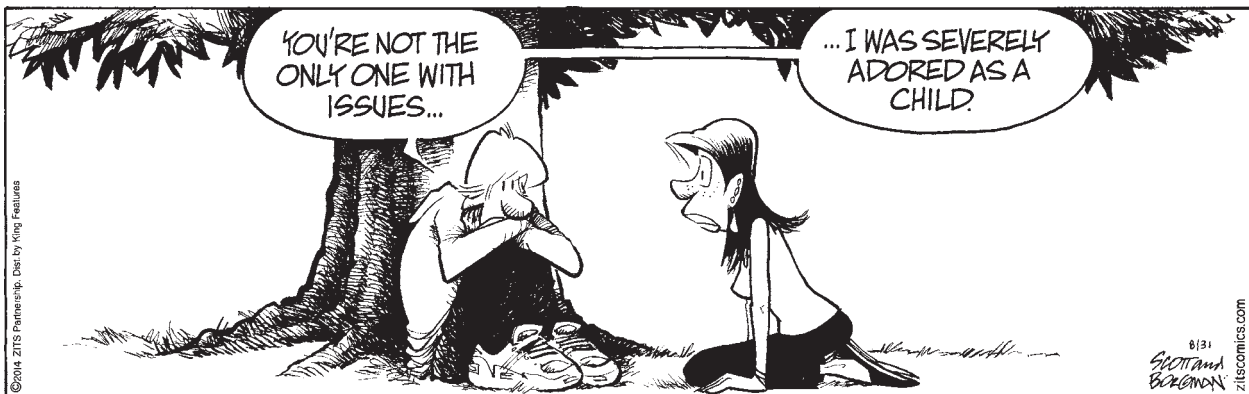
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4			3			5	
2			9		8			6
				2				
	5						7	
9		2				6		3
	8						4	
				7				
6			5		3			1
	1			4			3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/31

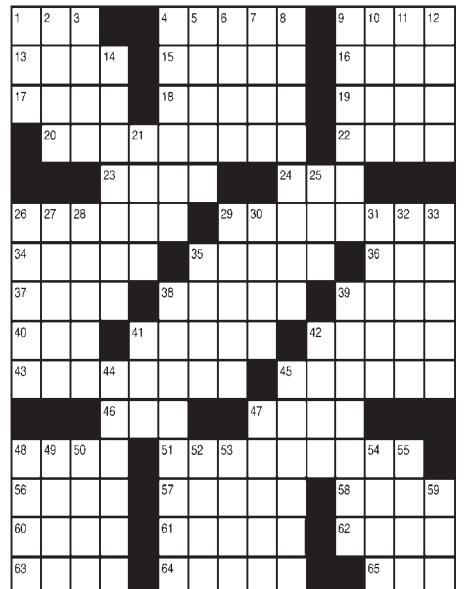
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	8	2	1	3	7	5	4	6
7	6	5	9	4	8	2	1	3
3	1	4	5	2	6	7	9	8
8	4	6	3	7	9	1	5	2
1	2	3	4	8	5	9	6	7
5	7	9	2	6	1	8	3	4
6	5	7	8	1	4	3	2	9
4	3	1	7	9	2	6	8	5
2	9	8	6	5	3	4	7	1

ACROSS

- Pekoe or oolong
- Religious leader
- Leave out
- Rabbit __; TV antennas
- Thai or Chinese
- Goal of medical research
- Engrave
- "Hang in __"; words of encouragement
- BPOE folks
- Smashed to smithereens
- In case
- Compadres
- Knot-tying words
- Pineapple __ down cake
- Spitful destruction
- __ in; brings under control
- Boo-hoos
- "I've Got a __ in Kalamazoo"
- TV's "The Big __ Theory"
- Winchester or Remington
- Long-standing quarrel
- King topper
- Winslet and Mulgrew
- Slight staining
- Recent arrival
- Composer Cole __
- __-huggers; low-slung pants
- Cheese from France
- Wingless insect
- Attacker
- Money lent
- Kingdom
- Rocky __ ice cream
- Meanie
- Past, present or future
- Beauty mark
- No longer sick
- Make a smudge worse
- Barbie's beau



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

8/31/18

DOWN

- Ball holder
- Dines
- Prefix for angel or enemy
- Simple baby toy
- Fireplace residue
- Coffin platform
- Nude
- Not fit for human consumption
- Wild feline
- Pack animal
- Annoys
- SAT, for one
- Molding
- Small amounts
- __ and don'ts; rules
- Not rural
- Tranquility
- Tough fibrous tissue
- Less risky
- Pointed tools
- Representative
- Measuring device
- Firstborn of two
- __ into; chomp down on
- "...o'er the __ we watched..."

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

TIRE	STRAY	ROTS
HOES	CEASE	OAHU
AWLS	RECAPTURED	
TAE	PINE	ASSES
	NORMS	OLE
CATNAP	GUESTS	
ALLEY	BEERS	YES
LIES	REAMS	FRET
LBS	GUSTS	LLAMA
ISSUES	TEENSY	
	PAD	SHEEN
ASTIR	LEIS	ITS
CHANDELIER	SCOT	
TOME	BYRDS	RAGE
SEPT	BEAST	SLAP

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8/31/18

- Gun
- Colorful pond
- fish
- Labor
- No. 5; classic perfume
- First-grade textbook
- Good wood for rafts
- Move along smoothly
- Theater box
- British noble
- __ like; appear to be
- Not bananas
- Room recess
- Yarn
- Lion's lair

Hundreds of fish die in lagoon in tony Malibu, California



This photo shows dead fish at Malibu Lagoon State Park, as state workers prepare to remove the stinking mess in Malibu, Calif., Monday, Aug. 27, 2018.

Associated Press

By ARIEL TU

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California officials were trying Monday to solve a stinky mystery: A die-off has left hundreds of fish floating in a recently restored lagoon on the tony Malibu coast. Scientists believe the Malibu Lagoon die-off, which began last Wednesday, is likely caused by unusually warm water temperatures, said Craig Sap, superintendent of California State Parks' Angeles District. "We had many days in a row of warmer-than-usual temperatures. We hadn't had much of a breeze down there to keep the temperatures down," Sap said.

Other possibilities include elevated nutrient levels, dropping levels of dissolved oxygen or having too many fish in the lagoon. Officials are taking water samples and fish for testing.

Malibu Lagoon underwent a controversial restoration project in 2013.

Major conservation groups, including Sierra Club and Audubon Society chapters, backed the restoration, but others sued to stop the project, contending it would destroy sensitive wildlife habitat. The battle lasted for years but the project finally broke

ground in 2012.

The die-off has raised locals' concerns about what some call failures in the project. Resident Wendy Dunn told KTLA that State Parks ignored plans for so-called breach points that would allow the lagoon water to mix with fresh ocean water to keep proper oxygen levels. Sap said breaching manually would cause more damage to the ecosystem. "What you end up doing is, some species that are not meant to be there get in, and species get flushed out when they shouldn't have been," Sap said. □



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Mobility Equip . Gire

568 5165

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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Fire Dept.	115
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Archaeologists dig Native American fort found in Connecticut

By DAVE COLLINS

NORWALK, Conn. (AP) — A 1600s Native American fort uncovered as part of a rail bridge replacement project is shining some light on a tribe's first dealings with Europeans, archeologists said on Tuesday during a tour of the site.

The find on a small sliver of land next to railroad tracks that carry Amtrak and Metro-North commuter trains is considered one of the most important discoveries in the Northeast for Native American history.

Not only did experts recently find the remains of the 17th century fort, they discovered some artifacts including arrow and spear tips that date back an estimated 3,000 years, indicating Native Americans were active at the site for generations. No evidence of human remains has been found.

"It's one of the earliest historic period sites that has been found so far," said archaeologist Ross Harper. "And it's very rich in artifacts including Native American pottery and stone tools, as well as trade goods such as glass beads, wampum, hatchets and knives. It's definitely one of the more important sites, not just for



Archaeologist Ross Harper holds a notched projectile, estimated to be 3,000 years old, found at the site of a Native American fort in Norwalk, Conn., on Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018.

Associated Press

the area but New England in general."

Harper said he believes the fort had wooden walls because what appeared to be post holes were found where vertical wood pieces were placed.

He said it appears the Norwalk Indians, a tribe that historians know little about, had a fort at the site from about 1615 to 1640 and used it to trade goods with early Dutch settlers. The site is on a small sliver of land next to railroad tracks that carry Amtrak and Metro-

North commuter trains. A 19th century history of Norwalk mentions an old Native American fort, and a road near the site is still named Fort Point Street.

The site was found during preliminary archaeological surveys ordered as part of the state's upcoming replacement of the 122-year-old Walk Bridge, which spans the Norwalk River and swings open to allow boats to pass. The bridge has gotten stuck in the open position several times and caused massive

rail service delays. Construction is set to begin next year.

Harper works for Archaeological & Historical Services Inc., a Storrs, Connecticut-based firm that is painstakingly removing artifacts from the site and taking them back to its offices for cleaning and further study. Some of the artifacts may be headed to museums. The firm will write a lengthy report on the artifacts and its findings.

The firm, which plans to completely remove all artifacts from the site by the fall, has been working in consultation with the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegans — the two federally recognized tribes in the state. There is no known opposition to the removal of the artifacts.

The two tribes issued a joint statement on the project this week.

"Any time a Native American site or artifacts are found, the utmost sensitivity should be used," the statement said. "While the Walk Bridge construction site in Norwalk may or may not have direct ties to the Mohegan or Mashantucket Pequot tribes ... we take the matter seriously. In fact, Tribal Preservation Officers

from both tribes have actively been working with people on the ground there for over a year to offer their expertise."

The site is one of only about a half-dozen in the Northeast known to have contained evidence of Native Americans' first encounters with Europeans, and most of the sites have been destroyed or removed during development of the lands, Harper said.

The rare find is what drew about 20 archaeologists from the region to Tuesday's tour in oppressively hot weather.

"For me, it's like a gold mine," said Kevin McBride, an anthropology professor at the University of Connecticut and research director at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum. "I think the reason the site is so important is that there's a lot of material here. It's definitely one of the most important sites we've found in a long time."

McBride said items found at the site provide some insight into Native Americans' first interactions with Europeans and show how they incorporated European products such as iron tools and knives into their culture. □



In this June 24, 2018 photo released by NASA, the Russian Soyuz MS-09 crew craft, left, and the Northrop Grumman (formerly Orbital ATK) Cygnus space freighter are attached to the International Space Station.

Associated Press

Air leak temporarily patched at International Space Station

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Astronauts scrambled Thursday to patch a tiny hole that was allowing air to leak from the Russian side of the International Space Station.

NASA and Russian space officials stressed the six as-

tronauts were in no danger. The leak was detected Wednesday night — possibly from a micrometeorite strike — resulting in a small loss of cabin pressure. It was traced to a hole about 2 millimeters (less than one-tenth of an inch) across in the most recent Soyuz capsule docked at the space station.

Thursday morning, the crew taped over the hole, slowing the leak. Flight controllers monitored the cabin pressure while working to come up with a better long-term solution.

The leaking Soyuz — one of two up there — arrived at the orbiting lab in June

with three astronauts. It's their ride home, too, come December, and also serves as a lifeboat in case of an emergency.

A NASA spokesman said it was premature to speculate on whether the three might have to return to Earth early if the leak, even as small as it is, cannot be stopped.

The hole is located in the upper section of the Soyuz, which does not return to Earth, according to NASA. The 250-mile-high outpost is home to three Americans, two Russians and one German. Orbital debris is a constant threat to spacecraft, even the tiniest specks. □

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Tuned in: ACC looks for boost with 2019 launch of TV channel

By AARON BEARD

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — When Atlantic Coast Conference teams open the season this week, their games will air on several television platforms, from ABC and Fox to ESPN and the CBS Sports Network.

A year from now, that list will also include the ACC's own channel.

League schools are working on production and broadcast space for the ACC Network's launch in August 2019. The conference is mulling football and basketball scheduling that adds extra zip to first-year programming for the ESPN-partnered channel.

The short-term goal is a good start amid industry-wide concerns about falling subscriber numbers for many TV providers as cord-cutters opt for standalone services such as YouTube TV. Beyond that, the ACC needs a reliable financial boost after falling behind its power-conference peers: the Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and Southeastern conferences.

"I think there's some other things we can do (financially), that we are looking at," Commissioner John Swofford told The Associated Press. "But none of those things would reach the ultimate potential that the channel has."

Swofford said it could take four or five years to reap the channel's full financial benefits.

Member schools are counting on that money.

"The single most important thing for the future of this athletic program financially is the success of the ACC Network, without question," North Carolina State athletic director Debbie Yow said.

"We have maxed out on our multimedia rights deal. We have maxed out on our apparel deal. We have maxed out on our tickets sales in football, we're close to that in basketball," Yow said. "All the financial resources that are available for us to go get, we've done really well in. We've kind of hit the wall. ... We



In this Wednesday, July 18, 2018 file photo, Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner John Swofford speaks during news conference at ACC NCAA college football media day in Charlotte, N.C. Associated Press

have to have it just like the SEC and the Big Ten did." Federal tax filings for the power conferences illustrate Yow's point — and a growing gap.

For documents covering the 2007-08 school year, the ACC ranked second in total revenue (\$162.7 million) and average payout to member schools (\$11.8 million). That was slightly more than the SEC and behind the Big Ten (\$217.7 million total revenue, \$18.8 million average payout) after that league became the first with its own channel in August 2007.

By 2016-17, the ACC's total revenue had reached a league-record \$418.1 million but trailed the SEC (\$650 million), the Big Ten (\$512.9 million) and the Pac-12 (\$509.4 million). Its average payout for 14 full-time members — Notre Dame gets a partial share as a football independent with its own NBC TV deal — averaged \$26.6 million, while the 15 schools additionally received an aver-

age of more than \$960,000 in reimbursements for conference championship expenses.

By comparison, the SEC — which launched its ESPN-partnered channel in 2014 — distributed nearly \$41 million per school. The Big Ten averaged about \$37 million when factoring out reduced shares for past-decade additions Nebraska, Maryland and Rutgers. The Big 12 averaged \$34.3 million despite lacking its own TV channel, though it has fewer mouths to feed at 10 schools and one of those — Texas — sporting a separate 20-year ESPN deal for the Longhorn Network, launched in 2011. The Pac-12 averaged nearly \$31 million after launching its league-owned network in 2012, though it has been unable to get the channels on DirecTV and has had trouble getting broad access on cable providers outside the region.

The financial numbers keep increasing. The Big 12 said in June that its average

payout would grow to \$36.5 million following 2017-18 amid its TV deal with ESPN and Fox Sports running through 2024-25. And there are projections that Big Ten schools could soon cross \$50 million.

Swofford has declined to publicly discuss financial projections for the ACC Network.

One factor will be distribution deals between ESPN's majority owner — Disney — and cable providers to carry the channel. Swofford pointed to an October deal between Disney and Altice USA that includes the ACC and SEC networks for the New York area as "a very good start for us, optically as well as practically."

"The fortunate thing for us is our partner," Swofford said. "Because not only in terms of their being the leader in sports television and production, talent and so forth — it's Disney, and it's ESPN, and it's ESPN2, and it's ESPN and it's ESPN News. But it's all those Disney channels. And that's powerful in

the marketplace."

Dean Jordan, a global media managing executive with the Wasserman media group who has represented the league in negotiations with ESPN, declined to discuss the ACC Network specifically but said sports remain "the big value driver" with distribution deals.

"When you think about it, people's greatest passions are for their favorite teams and their favorite team's competitors," Jordan said. "That's why regional networks are so popular. . . . When you look at why college football in general has risen to the heights it has, it's because all over the country in communities big or small, there are these college programs that ignite passion in their alumni, their students and their fans."

"Same as fans of the pro teams, but there's a lot more colleges and they touch a lot more people."

As for programming, the ACC previously announced a 20-game men's basketball league schedule for the channel's debut 2019-20 season. Swofford said it is possible that could include seven season-opening conference matchups before resuming the league slate in December and January — an unusual step considering the last time two ACC teams met in a season-opening conference matchup came in December 1967, according to the league.

Swofford said it is "probable" the 2019 football schedule opens with conference games, too, for attractive matchups "out of the chute."

"The ACC Network, for it to come on board and for us to have the opportunity to really showcase what this league is all about, like some of the other leagues who have taken advantage of that opportunity — the Big Ten Network, the SEC Network, whatever — it's just great for our programs," Clemson football coach Dabo Swinney said. "It's great for our players. And I don't have any doubt it'll be something our fans will truly love." □

Computer-screen thriller 'Searching' transcends its gimmick

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — If "Searching," a mystery about a father looking for his missing teenage daughter told only with smartphone and computer screens, sounds like a gimmick, don't worry, you're in good company. Its star, John Cho, and director and co-writer Aneesh Chaganty thought so too initially. It wasn't even a new concept. The producer for "Searching" was also behind the "screen thriller" "Unfriended," and wanted a follow-up that used the same technique.

But even with its inauspicious beginnings, the film has become a late summer must-see propelled by strong reviews from critics and a warm afterglow following the successful launch of "Crazy Rich Asians," which has only bolstered enthusiasm around "Searching" and its Asian-American leads.

In its first weekend in limited release, actress Karen Gillan hosted a free screen-



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Joseph Lee, left, and John Cho in Screen Gems' thriller "Searching."

Associated Press

ing of the film. "Crazy Rich Asians" director Jon M. Chu and star Henry Golding bought out a theater too. It made an impressive \$390,000 from nine theaters and distributor Screen Gems is hoping that mo-

mentum continues as it expands to 1,200 screens nationwide this weekend.

Chaganty laughs now about how he was more than willing to walk away from a chance to make his first feature just because he didn't buy into the ploy.

"I like good movies and I want to feel emotional and I don't want to give that up to do something just because there's an opportunity," Chaganty said. "It was a gimmick. I had seen the other films that took place on screens and I thought they were gimmicks."

But he and his co-writer and producing partner Sev Ohanian decided to think about it, and for two months raked their brains for a way in. Then one day, they hit gold. The film, they decided, would open with a montage showing a young family of three through the years told in digital photo albums, videos and calendar dates. It is a slice of life tearjerker that has been compared to the opening of "Up." And, perhaps most importantly, it makes you care about David Kim (Cho) and his daughter Margot (Michelle La).

It's what got Cho on board too, who was put to the test in this role. For the most part, Cho had to act opposite only a blank computer

screen and webcam.

"I don't know how I did it, I was bumbling my way through it really," Cho said. "It was weird, it was like acting in a black box ... Several times on set I was like, 'Aneesh can we please stop this webcam business and let's shoot the third act with a bunch of cameras, real cameras and pop out of it? Can we please?'"

According to Cho, Chaganty's response to this was, "John, shut up and act."

While the concept may have been frustrating to execute, however, the final product and story is so seamless it almost makes you forget that you're watching a story unfold through screens.

"After I saw the movie for the first time, I (told Aneesh), 'You have expanded the vocabulary of cinema, and that is so freaking hard to do,'" Cho said.

"Searching," Cho said, is a kind of bookend to "Crazy Rich Asians" and both are necessary for advancing representation in Hollywood movies.

"That's an Asian specific story and this one isn't," Cho said. "Those are two very important things to say. One is, 'We're going to tell our stories' and the other is, 'Don't limit what our stories

are."

Chaganty simply wanted an Asian-American lead, and specifically Cho, because those are the families he grew up around in San Jose, California, where the film is set. Other than that, there is no story reason that necessitates that the lead be any ethnicity.

"I grew up watching movies that I loved that had nothing to do with race or culture or addressing skin color that just didn't have people like me in it. 'Mission: Impossible,' the 'Bourne' movies, the ones that don't have anything to do with that," Chaganty said. "We've become part of the conversation because we're the first ones to do it in a thriller. It's insane to me that this is even a conversation. I hope people look back on this and are like I don't get how this is racially progressive."

The film's opening and the enthusiasm around it has also made Cho start to reflect on progress. The 46-year-old Korean-American actor's name became its own social media movement in 2016 when a tech savvy man, William Yu, started photoshopping Cho into movie posters for Hollywood blockbusters like "Spectre" along with the hashtag #StarringJohnCho.

"I've been asked so much about it and it's kind of awkward. The common question is, 'Did it work?' And I'm like, 'I don't know!' In a way I was thinking it didn't work because they were like, 'Oh he's supposed to be Captain America' or something in these big tent-pole movies and while I really appreciated that sentiment, I'm not in any of these franchises. I've got my own, but I'm not in any of those," Cho said.

And yet, he also sees a silver lining. The two movies he's starred in since #StarringJohnCho, "Columbus" and "Searching" were directed by Asian-Americans and found their own grassroots success.

"It's an incredible story about what the people can will to be," Cho said. □

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NEW THIS WEEK!

JOHN CHO | DEBRA MESSING
searching
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MONTHU 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30
FRI 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30 | 11:45
SAT 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30 | 11:25
SUN & HOL 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30

JAMES FRANCO | ZOË KRAVITZ
IN THE SKIN OF A LION
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MONTHU 4:40 | 6:55 | 9:10
FRI 4:40 | 6:55 | 9:10 | 11:25
SAT 2:25 | 4:40 | 6:55 | 9:10 | 11:25
SUN & HOL 2:25 | 4:40 | 6:55 | 9:10

CONSTANCE WU | HENRY GOLDING
CRAZY RICH ASIANS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MONTHU & SUN 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15
FRI/SAT 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:20

MARK WAHLBERG | LAUREN COHAN
22 MILE
CXC PREMIUM LARGE FORNAT AUDITORIUM
MONTHU 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35
FRI 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SAT 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35

JASON STATHAM | RUBY ROSE
THE MEG
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MONTHU 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25
FRI 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25 | 11:55
SAT 1:55 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25

KODI SMIT-MCPHEE | NATASSIA MALTHE
ALPHA
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MON/FRI 5:00 | 7:10
SAT & SUN 2:50 | 5:00 | 7:10

TOM CRUISE | HENRY CAVILL
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - FALLOUT
[PG-13]
MON/FRI 6:00 | 9:05
SAT/SUN 2:55 | 6:00 | 9:05

MELISSA MCCARTHY | ELIZABETH BANKS
THE HAPPYTIME MURDERS
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Rihanna's in, Wang is out: A preview of NY Fashion Week

By LEANNE ITALIE

NEW YORK (AP) — The French luxury house Longchamp will be there for the first time. So will Studio One Eighty Nine, the Ghana-based artisan initiative co-founded by actress Rosario Dawson. Look for Rihanna, but don't look for Victoria Beckham or Alexander Wang.

There's a never-ending churn to New York Fashion Week and its packed schedule of more than 200 September shows and other events is no different.

Here's a rundown of who will be there, who won't and other highlights:

RIHANNA'S A YES

The superstar's size-inclusive Savage x Fenty line of lingerie, undies and intimate accessories will close eight days of fashion with an "immersive experience" the night of Sept. 12 in Brooklyn, because the fashion horde loves a good schlep to Brooklyn.

No matter. It's Rihanna after all.

She debuted the line in May with sizes ranging up to size 44DD in bras and 3XL in apparel. The latest will be available for immediate purchase on SavageX.com. Pop-ups in New York, Minnesota's Mall of America and elsewhere are planned.

NEW ARRIVALS

The family-owned Longchamp is having its cake and eating it, too, as the company marks 70 years in business with its first full-scale runway show in New York. It was a big American-themed year for the house with the opening of a Fifth Avenue flagship store, a collaboration with Shayne Oliver and Kendall Jenner as its new face.

Longchamp will also celebrate in Paris with a September event at the Opera Garnier, according to a company statement, as it has expanded in recent years from leather goods into ready-to-wear apparel.

"Longchamp has always acted on intuition — something we can allow ourselves to do because we are independent — and



In this May 10, 2018 file photo, singer and fashion icon Rihanna appears at an event to promote her new lingerie brand in New York.

Associated Press

we chose New York as we are inspired by the energy and freedom of the city," the company said.

Was Self Portrait similarly inspired as it landed on the New York schedule, or was it the London-based company's higher profile due to one particularly famous fan, Meghan the Duchess of Sussex?

The duchess wore a black-and-white dress from Self Portrait for her first go-around at Queen Elizabeth's annual Christmas lunch, before the wedding. The midi dress with a black lace top and pink and white details sold out quickly.

Dawson's Studio One Eighty Nine will also be on hand. It already has a store in New York, along with one in Accra, and a slew of awards. They include the prestigious Council of Fashion Designers of America Lexus Sustainable Fashion Initiative Award. The company has a manufacturing facility in Accra and supports artisan communities in Africa specializing in indigo, hand-batik and kente weaving. It supports initiatives aimed at empowering women,

job programs and educational opportunities in the industry.

WHO WON'T BE THERE

Victoria Beckham is celebrating 10 years in business and has decamped to London, where she'll show at the fashion week immediately following New York. The Brit built her empire in New York and her company remains based here.

Vera Wang has been off the fashion week hamster wheel for a while, as has Kanye West. And Philipp Plein? He polished up a huge spaceship for a wintry splash of a February show in New York after leaving Milan but has not yet spoken about future extravaganzas here.

As for Wang, he generated a lot of buzz earlier this year by announcing he would dump fashion week schedules altogether, choosing to show in June and December rather than participate in New York's weeks in February and September. The idea is to shorten the time consumers need to wait between reveal and store delivery, from six months to four. Other brands have followed suit.

Los Angeles sisters Kate and Laura Mulleavy headed off to Paris couture week last year, but they announced on Instagram in July they'd be returning to the New York ready-to-wear schedule in September to debut their latest.

Another returnee: New York-based Proenza Schouler. The design duo Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez showed in Paris for two seasons but took to Instagram in June to say they'd be back at New York Fashion Week, where it all began, come September.

"NY will always be home," the two said in the post. "Paris was an amazing opportunity to show what we do to a completely different audience that had never been able to attend a Proenza Schouler show and on that level, as well as on a creative level, it felt really right."

THE CURVY CON

Coinciding with fashion week is a three-day convention (Sept. 6-8) celebrating the plus-size community. This time, Gabourey Sidibe will be the keynote speaker at The Curvy Con, now in its fourth year. Also on hand: The WWE and "Total Divas" stars Brie Bella, Nikki Bella and Nia Jax will be on a panel to discuss body positivity.

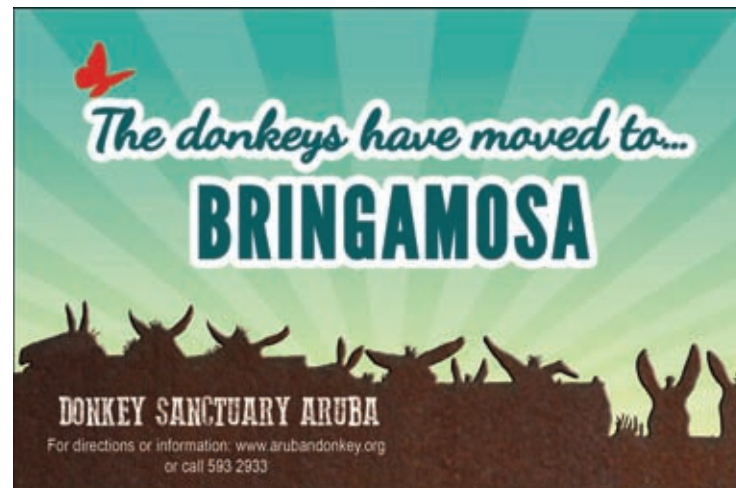
The retail chain Loft is hosting a shop-able fashion show. The company launched plus sizing (up to 26) for online purchase in February. They'll begin to roll out plus offerings in stores Sept. 4. The Loft will include five attendees of The Curvy Con (TheCurvy-Con.com) among its walkers for the runway show. □

KATE SPADE NEW YORK

Spade, the co-founder and former co-owner of the company with husband Andy Spade, killed herself in June. She and Spade created their first handbag line in 1993 and sold off bits of the company starting in 1999, cashing out completely in 2006. But the brand lives on and this will be its first runway show and the first time at fashion week since the loss of its namesake.

The show will be staged at the ornate main branch of the New York Public Library and will be the introduction of new designer Nicola Glass. A tribute was expected.

WHO'S BACK



Pot industry wants to see 'stoner' stereotype go up in smoke

By JOHN ROGERS

KRYSTA FAURIA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michelle Janikian, who writes about marijuana for publications like Herb, Playboy and Rolling Stone, says after she tells someone what she does for a living, she usually spends the rest of the conversation "trying to act so friendly and mainstream" so they don't think she's stoned.

Adam Salcido relates that after he went to work a couple of years ago for a Southern California company that helps organize weed-infused events like Hempfest and Cannabis Cup, he had to reassure his family he wouldn't turn into a drug addict.

Stoner stereotypes die hard. But with a multibillion-dollar industry beginning to flower — marijuana is now legal in some form in 30 states — cannabis advocates are pushing to dispel the idea that people who toked up still live on the couches in their parents' basements and spend their waking hours eating Cheetos and playing video games.

MedMen, a flashy, upscale chain of dispensaries that brands itself as the Apple store of pot shops, recently rolled out a \$2 million ad campaign that, for lack of a better description, might be called the "anti-stoner offensive."

Photos of 17 people — including a white-haired grandmother, a schoolteacher, a business executive, a former pro football



This May 9, 2018 photo shows a billboard for MedMen, a marijuana dispensary, at an intersection in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

player and a nurse — are being splashed across billboards, buses and the web by the company that has dispensaries in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and New York. Each photo has the word "stoner" crossed out and in its place a description of their job.

People can find their biographies on the website www.forgetstoner.com, where they can also learn why they use weed. Reasons range from treatment of medical conditions like migraines and anxiety to simply enjoying the high.

"What we're saying is the very definition of a stereotype is defining a person by one bad mention," says Daniel Yi, MedMen's senior vice president of communications and a former Los

Angeles Times reporter. "They're also a grandmother. They're also a father, a son, a brother."

Judd Weiss, CEO and founder of cannabis company Lit.Club, believes the industry needs to do still more. He suggests marketing products in a way that makes them look more than just respectable, but as the herbal equivalent of a fine bourbon or scotch.

Thus, he says, Lit.Club's vape pens are packaged in a way "that won't embarrass you at the opera." They look sleek and stylish, with inspirational phrases like "Light A Path" printed on each one. He compares the aroma and flavor of his company's pre-rolled joints to something similar to a fine brandy.

"Very much like the Tesla, we want to be seen as luxury quality but affordable," he said.

The website Leafly, which is sometimes called a Yelp for discerning potheads, has taken out ads in The New York Times and staged promotional events at gatherings like the South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas, to extol the virtues of marijuana. Better sex and better health are two claims it focuses on.

Still there is pushback from some who believe realities about pot are being glossed over by slick mar-

keting.

"It is not a controversial claim to say that marijuana could be addictive for some people, that it could produce mental illness, that it's tied to impaired driving, that it makes you not motivated, that you're more likely to drop out of school if you're a kid using," said Kevin Sabet, president of the group Smart Approaches to Marijuana and a former drug policy adviser to presidents Clinton, Obama and George W. Bush.

Sabet accuses the cannabis industry of enticing children with edibles and cookies in an attempt to become another "Big Tobacco," although he also acknowledges there is evidence that marijuana has

some medicinal value.

It was edibles that brought Cindy Paul of Billings, Montana, to a Portland, Oregon, pot shop a few weeks ago to sample marijuana for the first time in 25 years. A casual if closeted smoker during her school days, Paul, 55, said she decided to indulge again while vacationing with her daughter in a state where it's legal and where she can acquire it in a form she doesn't have to inhale.

"I do think it has medicinal qualities," she said, adding, "I'm not using it for that. I'm using it to have a good time. I don't think it's any different than having a beer."

To bring more people like Paul into the fold, branding expert Robert Miner says the marijuana industry needs to use movies and TV shows to change negative perceptions.

Those lovable stoners Cheech and Chong were fine back in the day when it came to rebuffing the idea that anybody who smoked pot was headed for Reefer Madness. But the mainstreaming of marijuana, he said, demands a new message.

"For that larger portion of the cannabis-consuming population, that same silly bumbling stereotype that led to a wider acceptance is now an impediment to their being open about their cannabis consumption," said Miner, whose firm, Miner & Co. Studio, works with TV networks and other media in image building. □



This Oct. 19, 2017 photo provided by Michelle Janikian shows herself doing research among a stand of marijuana plants in Medellin, Colombia.

Associated Press



In this Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018 photo, Judd Weiss takes a puff of a pre-rolled marijuana cigarette at his house in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles.

Associated Press